



Fresh allegations by Soviet miners

## Fraud squad enquiry into NUM cash

By MARK SOISTER AND TIM JONES

**SCOTLAND** Yard has begun an investigation into the financial affairs of the National Union of Mineworkers after serious allegations of untraced money were made by a Soviet miners' leader.

The inquiry into Arthur Scargill's handling of £1.4 million got under way when two official complaints reached the Serious Fraud Office.

The move came as union members appeared to head off legal proceedings against Mr Scargill, the union president, and others who yesterday were given three months by the High Court to explain what has happened to more than £3 million which they believe should have gone to help suffering miners during the 1984-5 strike.

Allegations of theft, forgery and false accounting are understood to be detailed in two separate letters, one from a Soviet miners' leader, Sergei Massalovich, and the other from an unidentified former senior employee of the NUM.

Mr Massalovich is concerned about the whereabouts of large but unspecified amounts of money raised from 40,000 miners in the Vorkuta region of northern Russia in 1984. His letter of complaint, sent two weeks ago, was received by the Serious Fraud Office on Wednesday and passed to Commander Alan Fry, head of the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad.

The investigation is being

### INSIDE

## Treasury accused

Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, blames the Treasury for continuing delays in building the Channel Tunnel rail link. In an article in *The Times*, he attacks the attitude to funding transport infrastructure.

Britain's decline over three decades is littered with Treasury vetoes on investment. In infrastructure, whether transportation or training, they risk proving fatal to our future, which is in Europe". Page 25

## Race conflict

A man was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the murder of an Indian taxi driver he left dying in the road after stabbing him 58 times. The case has revealed a disturbing conflict between police and a group of activists which monitors racial harassment. Page 5

**Reshuffle benefit**  
Cabinet ministers dropped in reshuffles will in future receive nearly £9,000 in severance pay if a new Bill goes through the Commons. The Bill also provides for the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor to retire on half-pay, and for improved payments to MPs' widows. Page 8

## Waldheim attack

Two protesters, Rabbi Avraham Weiss and Jacob Davidson, were dragged away after shouting "Shame for meeting Nazi Waldheim", interrupting President Kurt Waldheim's reception of the West German and Czechoslovak presidents at the opening of the Salzburg Festival. Page 9

## Degree results

Degrees from the University of Dundee are published today. Page 29

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Haughey on board Celtic Mist: 'not exactly pleased'

## Protest after marines board Haughey's yacht

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE private yacht of Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, has been boarded and searched by a routine Royal Marine patrol in the disputed waters of Carlingford Lough which separates Co Down in Northern Ireland from Co Louth in the Republic.

The Irish Government has protested the matter through the department of foreign affairs in Dublin with the Northern Ireland Office in Belfast and Mr Haughey, who was not on the boat at the time, was said to be "not exactly pleased".

The incident, which happened on Sunday immediately started rumours, denied by military sources in Northern Ireland, that the crew and skipper of *Celtic Mist*, a converted trawler, were subjected to abuse by the Marines even

after being told who the yacht belonged to.

Speculation was further fuelled when it was discovered that Ireland's most heavily-armed naval ship, the coastal patrol vessel *Orla*, moved into the lough on Tuesday, ostensibly on routine fishery protection and security duties but unofficially to parade the Irish flag.

The *Orla* is a gunboat brought from the Royal Navy two years ago and armed with a 76mm gun and twin heavy and medium machine guns.

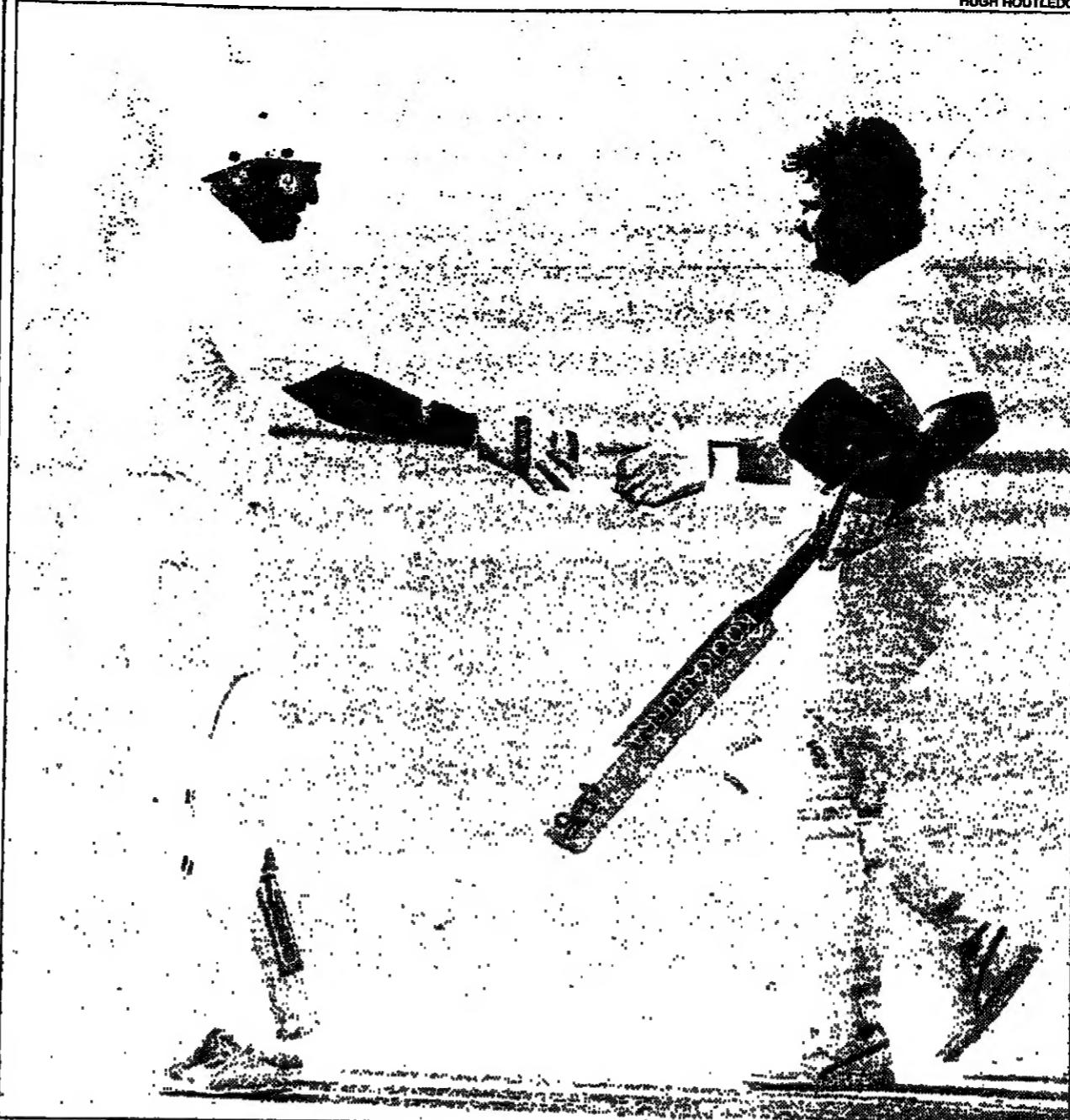
According to British military sources, the *Celtic Mist* was searched while on the move as part of routine operations designed to deter the IRA from smuggling weapons into Northern Ireland by sea. A statement said the yacht's skipper, Irish businessman Brian Stafford, signed customary boarding forms and made no objection at the time and has not done

since to the Marines' request to come aboard.

Far from insulting Mr Stafford, it is said the Marines thanked him and even saluted him before speeding away. Mr Haughey is now aboard the yacht which is cruising off the Donegal coast.

While a welcome alternative to the grinding familiarity of most Anglo-Irish disputes, this episode nevertheless points up the conflicting claims by Britain and Ireland to all waters around Northern Ireland.

Article 2 of the Irish constitution, a major obstacle to political progress in Ulster, lays claim to the whole territory of Ireland and its waters. In Carlingford Lough, the border is represented by a so-called "mean line" running roughly down the middle, on each side of which the two navies patrol. Irish nationalists do not recognise the line.



Century makers: England's captain, Graham Gooch (left), congratulates Allan Lamb on his century against India at Lord's. At the close Gooch, 194, and Lamb, 104, had helped England to 359 for two. Report, page 38

## Kuwait yields to Iraq threats

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

TENSION subsided in the Gulf region yesterday as the terms of an Egyptian-brokered peace plan to end the bitter oil and border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait were swiftly put into effect.

As diplomatic sources reported the start of a pull-back from the disputed frontier of a large force of Iraqi troops despatched there to put pressure on Kuwait, there was a consensus in diplomatic circles that Iraq appeared to have secured a number of its goals by using heavy-handed tactics.

According to Western and Arab diplomats, Kuwait has offered nearly half of the \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) being demanded by Iraq as compensation for oil allegedly extracted from wells on Iraqi territory.

There were also signs in Geneva of a greater flexibility being displayed by Kuwait at the meeting of the oil producers' cartel. Observers said that the Kuwaitis appeared more willing to see a rise in the benchmark price of a barrel of oil from the present rate of \$18 and had pledged to stick by production quotas they had previously flouted at will.

"One aim of the Egyptian diplomatic drive has been to disguise the fact that Kuwait has already begun to give in even before the weekend talks in Saudi Arabia," said one Cairo-based diplomat. "So far, Iraq has come out on top."

● Petrol up: Shell UK yesterday became the second big oil company to raise its price for four-star petrol by more than £2 a gallon, reacting to the Opec-induced rise in the international cost of petrol.

Saving face, page 11  
Leading article, page 13  
BP warning, page 23

## Kinnock alerts party for election next June

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday told the shadow cabinet to prepare for a general election in June next year, warning them to be ready for the government to relax its high interest rates and tough spending policies to clear the path for a snap poll.

The Labour leadership, meeting in south London as parliament rose for the summer recess, decided to intensify campaigning over the coming months on the economy, Europe, the quality of life, and the family.

At a press conference last night at Maritime House, the headquarters of the National Union of Seamen, Mr Kinnock said Labour would have to combat the Conservative strategy of "lies and bribes". Despite the government's present economic difficulties, it would slacken off its squeeze and encourage spending at some stage. He said: "You can more or less set your watches for an election between four and six months from the time the slackening starts."

The Labour leader said there had been some slippage

in the so-called golden scenario for an election early next summer, but it was still possible that, in desperation, the government would ignore economic realities. "We are working on the basis of the primary date for the general election being in June of 1991."

In an end-of-term report to the shadow cabinet, Mr Kinnock concentrated on putting his team on an election footing. "The Tory policy will be to spend a little and slacken off a little in order to open up a short-run opportunity to call a snap election. Our task will be to warn of what they are attempting to do in order to buy a quick election."

He said that John Major, the chancellor, was deliberately handing out bad news at present to reduce expectations, and so enable him to exaggerate any subsequent small shift the other way.

With Labour enjoying a sustained lead in the opinion polls, yesterday's gathering, unlike similar summits in the past, was held in a buoyant atmosphere. Mr Kinnock said

Continued on page 22, col 7

Liberal offer, page 2  
Basil Pimlott, page 12

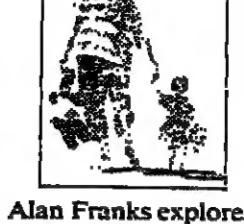
## Saturday Review

Are looks a liability?



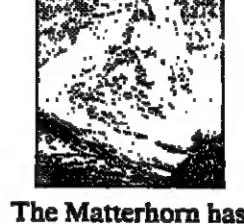
"Meryl Streep is beautiful, I'm not." Michelle Pfeiffer talks about acting and the trials of shrugging off a skin deep image

## A capital place for children



Alan Franks explores summer London and finds a wealth of activity for the discerning child

## The murderous mountainside

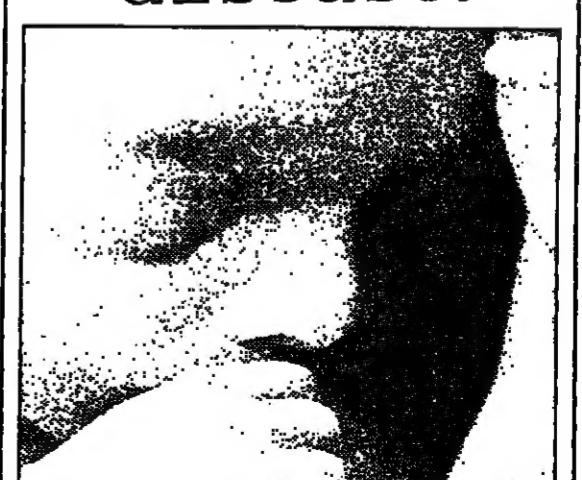


The Matterhorn has claimed 500 lives since it was first climbed 125 years ago. Ronald Faux on the mountain that still draws an army of potential conquerors

Plus...  
The Soviet army's retreat to Moscow, swimwear-style dresses, Bernard Levin on the Peloponnesian war, Jonathan Meades puts on a tie (spotty) to eat (poorly), Usk Castle's luxuriant garden, arts, books and much more

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## The Guinness case

## QC demands finding of guilt for 'greedy' four

By PAUL WILKINSON

**GUILTY** verdicts in the Guinness trial would show that dishonest and dis honourable behaviour on the scale reached during the Distillers takeover would not be tolerated, the jury was told yesterday.

John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court in London that the four defendants had been spurred on by greed and ambition, eager for the rewards of huge financial gain. In particular, Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chairman, had pressed on without regard for his company's shareholders, offering secret payments on a grand scale to those prepared to back an illegal share support operation that would win him control of Distillers.

Gerald Ronson, head of the Heron Group, Anthony Barnes, a stockbroker, Sir Jack Lyons, a financier, and Mr Saunders deny 22 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the Distillers takeover. They are accused of participating in a share support operation intended artificially to enhance the value of Guinness shares during the bid.

Ending his closing speech to the jury on the ninety-third day of the trial, Mr Chadwick said: "This case has shown how ambition and greed can cause men to behave dishonestly and dishonourably. This case is not about minor breaches of technical rules relating to takeovers. The Guinness takeover of Distillers was a shocking example of dishonest conduct. The dishonest conduct is that of these four defendants. Mr Saunders was so determined to win that

## EC ruling on fishing is upheld

THE House of Lords cleared the way yesterday for more than 50 Spanish-owned fishing vessels to count their catch as part of the British quota in the light of the recent ruling by the European Court of Justice (Frances Gibb writes).

The Lords granted a formal order to the Spanish owners of 53 named vessels restraining Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, from "withholding or withdrawing" their registration in the register of British fishing vessels. That order will remain in force until a final ruling by the European Court in Luxembourg, not expected until early next year, on the Spaniards' legal challenge to new domicile and residence conditions.

The conditions were brought in under the Merchant Shipping Regulations 1988 to try to protect the interests of the home fleet.

Yesterday's move in the Lords is the latest in the fishing rights dispute which has developed into a legal test case with constitutional implications. The European Court held earlier this year that courts in the United Kingdom could suspend provisions of an act of parliament, pending a final ruling on whether they breached EC law.

bid that he made secret an illegal agreement to boost the Guinness share price, not caring about members of the public who might be cheated by his scheme. He did not mind how much of Guinness's shareholders' funds were squandered on the massive payments nor did he care what false invoices were passed through the Guinness book of account.

"Mr Ronson was the eager recipient of £5 million obtained by the use of two false invoices which disguised the illegal support which he had given to Guinness during the bid. Mr Barnes was prepared to act as a go-between for the powerful figures in the support operations which he as a stockbroker knew were illegal.

He too was content to render false invoices and to be paid over £3 million for his services in procuring illegal support. Sir Jack was also prepared to be paid in the same dishonest fashion, participating in an illegal support operation, rendering false invoices, lying and creating bogus documents. Again he was only too happy to be paid over £3 million for his services."

Mr Chadwick said millions of pounds paid in fees were too big to be honest. They were large because they had to cover the risk involved in participating in illegality.

Mr Barnes received £3.3 million for allegedly finding people prepared to take part in an illegal support operation for Guinness shares. Sir Jack was paid £3 million and received another £300,000 to cover losses sustained in his share dealings, and Thomas Ward, an American lawyer and former Guinness director, received £2.2 million.

Mr Chadwick said it had been claimed that Mr Barnes had been a valuable source of market intelligence and had helped to devise special share dealing arrangements, but evidence indicated that he had done little revolutionary or even novel.

Mr Chadwick went on: "What had Sir Jack Lyons done to justify the payment of a huge fee of £3 million? According to his own interviews all that he did was to engage in political lobbying and give general advice on financial strategy. These activities could not possibly justify the fee of £3 million."

Turning to the £5.2 million paid to Mr Ward, Mr Chadwick said: "You will have become used to enormous figures in this case but it is perhaps useful to pause a moment and stand back and consider that payment in terms of payment per week. Mr Ward was paid at a rate of about £40,000 per week."

Mr Chadwick referred to Mr Saunders's claim that he was naive about financial matters. He asked the jury to remember several black books belonging to Mr Saunders which they had examined. They had contained details of various bank accounts in Britain, Switzerland and the Channel Islands. They also had details of forward planning for financial arrangements, comparisons of various currency values and details of properties and tax matters.

The trial continues today.

## Some Royal Mail advice on keeping a shirt on in Tonga

By ROBIN YOUNG

**BUSINESSMEN** who lose their shirt in Tonga are solemnly advised by the Post Office today that they are breaking the law. It is illegal, says the newly published first edition of the *Royal Mail International Business Travel Guide*, not to wear a shirt in public in Tonga.

The book, which has pages of detailed information on every country, notes that in Albania a nod of the head means "no" while a shake means "yes". In Greece, throwing back the head is a "negative gesture", while the Japanese think it impolite to say "no" at all so they say "yes" vaguely instead.

In the Central African Republic it is necessary to show caution and discretion when photographing local people, and then to send your film back to Europe for processing. You must not photograph the palace, the airport, government offices or the monetary authority buildings in Lesotho at all.

In Samoa it is important not to make any noise even when swimming offshore in the early evening for fear of disrupting the Samoan prayer period, and in Nepal all

Dressed to shoot: Members of the London Practical Shooting Club firing a volley at the 400-yard Century Range at Bisley camp, in Brookwood, Surrey, yesterday. The ceremony was a re-enactment of events of 100 years ago when the first shot was fired at Bisley

## £20,000 fine for Private Eye contempt

THE editor and publisher of *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine, were fined £20,000 for contempt by the appeal court yesterday over two articles about Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper.

They were also ordered to pay the estimated £50,000 costs of the appeal and the High Court hearing before Mr Justice Popplewell in March. The judges told Ian Hislop, the editor, that he had 14 days to pay his £10,000 fine and that failure to do so would result in a six-month jail sentence.

After the hearing he said: "I am disappointed; Mr Justice Popplewell decided there was no contempt and now the Court of Appeal has said there was a serious contempt. The fine isn't huge, but we have paid fairly heavily for this long and dreary action."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-general, originally sought to jail Mr Hislop for the two articles, which appeared in February last year. Three months later Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 38, was awarded record damages of £600,000 against the magazine, published by Pressdram, but the sum was reduced to £60,000 by agreement. The Attorney-general did not, however, press for committal.

Lord Justice Parker, sitting with Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice McCowan, ruled that *Private Eye* and its editor had been guilty of a serious contempt. Mr Justice Popplewell's finding that the articles were intended to deter Mrs Sutcliffe from pursuing her claim and were not published with the intention of influencing jurors was not challenged.

Lord Justice Parker said "a more blatant attempt to put pressure on Mrs Sutcliffe it would be hard to imagine". Mr Hislop accepted that the articles were very damaging and would blacken the name of Mrs Sutcliffe.

The judges said the articles "went far further than fair and temperate criticism" and constituted a serious risk of prejudice. Mr Hislop and Pressdram are considering an appeal to the House of Lords.

The trial continues today.

is regarded as insulting. In Afghanistan, too, it may be necessary to rub noses as a greeting and to share a room with somebody else because there is no guest accommodation.

Australian taxi drivers do not expect to be tipped, and nor do those in El Salvador unless they have been hired for the whole day. In Libya porters are tipped but taxi drivers are not. In America, on the other hand, not only cab drivers but also waiters and hairdressers regard their 15 per cent as obligatory.

Visitors to outlying areas of Zambia can expect to be met with curiosity, but in China they are likely to be applauded, and it is polite to applaud back. In many countries business gifts are warmly appreciated, but in Indonesia you have to be careful to give them with the right hand. In Cuba they are unacceptable and illegal, right-handed, left-handed or even back-handed.

Many countries, including Brunei, India, Japan, Korea and Thailand expect visitors to remove their shoes before entering a home or a place of worship, but in Afghanistan showing the soles of one's feet



## Aids scourge predicted for 1990s

By THOMSON PRENTICE SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST three million women and children around the world will be killed by Aids in the next nine years, and a million other children will be orphaned by the disease in the 1990s, the World Health Organisation says.

Aids has become the leading cause of death among young women in big cities in the United States, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, and could increase infant and child mortality in some areas by 30 per cent, the organisation says in today's issue of *The Lancet*.

The prospects are among the bleakest yet produced by WHO on the pandemic, and they are accompanied by a warning that in some parts of Africa, the figure for adult

Aids deaths could soon exceed the expected number of deaths from all other causes.

The report by James Chin, head of the WHO's Aids forecasting unit, says that while HIV infections among homosexual and bisexual men are decreasing in most parts of the world, a slow but steady increase in heterosexual transmissions has been recorded.

This trend is most pronounced in Latin America, especially in the Caribbean, but large increases are also occurring in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Chin says there is evidence that the virus is spreading from African cities into rural areas and he predicts that that these cases will have an enormous impact on health services.

"During the 1990s, not only

can hundreds of thousands of paediatric Aids cases be expected, but also more than a million uninfected children will be orphaned because their HIV-infected mothers and fathers will have died from Aids," he says.

The organisation calculates that there were about 500,000 cases of Aids among women and children in the last decade, most of which were undetected. The experts predict that there will be 150,000 Aids cases in African women in 1992 alone, and a further 130,000 cases in African children. "As for most Aids patients in Africa," the report says, "the diagnosis of the disease in women and children in this continent will be followed by death within a year, unless substantial improvements can be achieved with newer treatments."

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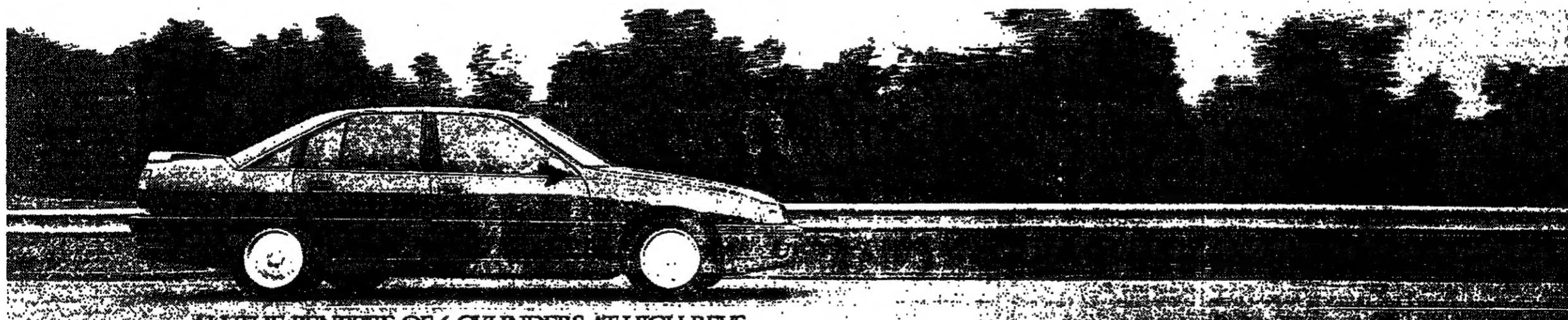
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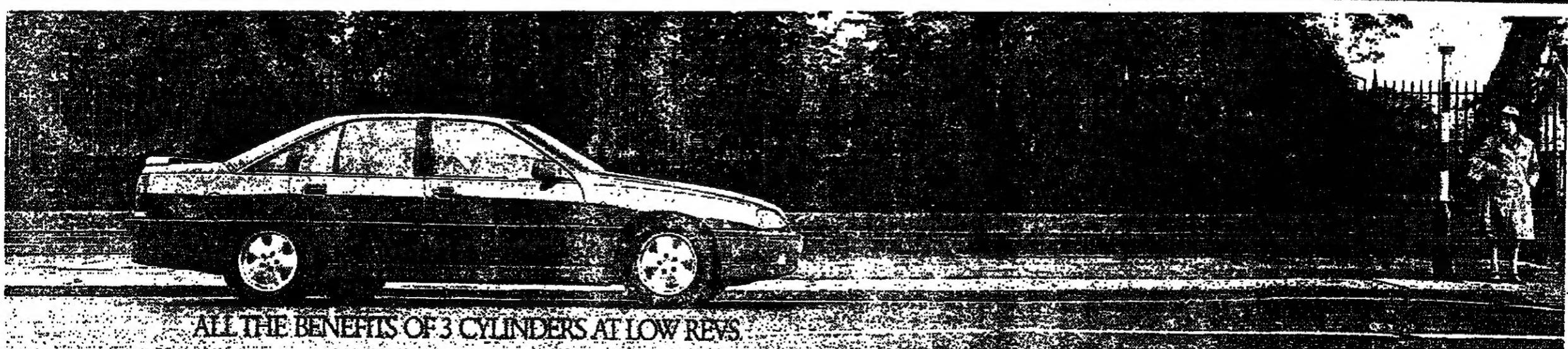
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Judge says murder was not racial

## Man who killed Indian taxi driver jailed for life

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN who left an Indian taxi driver dying in the road after stabbing him 58 times was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to life imprisonment. The case led to demonstrations and protests from a group of Asian activists which monitors ethnic harassment after police refused to deal with the crime as a racial killing.

Sentencing Steven Coker, aged 22, the judge said that he wanted to put on public record that there was no evidence the attack was racially motivated. Coker, unemployed, of Southall, west London, was heavily under the influence of drink and

drugs when he stabbed Kuldeep Singh Sekhon, 35, to avoid paying a £2 fare. Mr Justice Judge told him: "Inflamed by a mixture of drink and drugs, you struck down an innocent stranger working late at night as a cab driver to help meet his family responsibilities. Even now, I can detect no sign of remorse for what you did."

Coker denied murder but the prosecution refused to accept his plea of guilty to manslaughter.

The start of the trial two weeks ago was postponed for a day when the Southall Monitoring Group handed out leaflets outside the court

protesting that the murder of Mr Sekhon, who worked as a caterer at Heathrow but drove a taxi to make extra money, was racial. Two of the leaders were warned by the judge that the leaflets could prejudice potential jurors. However, the judge said yesterday: "The colour of that man did not matter. All that matters is that a good family man was the victim of a wicked crime."

Coker's girlfriend, Sarah Eyles, aged 22, unemployed, from Cranford, west London, left the dock weeping after the jury cleared her of perverting the course of justice by washing his

bloodsoaked clothing. She was also said to have helped Coker to dispose of the murder weapon, but said that she was terrified of him.

Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said that Coker had "killed" when he hired Mr Sekhon to drive him to his girlfriend's home on November 11 last year. Mr Sekhon, married with five daughters, was left dead at the end of the short journey by Coker who calmly walked the remaining few yards to Miss Eyles's home. Coker was said to have been dripping with blood when he arrived and asked her to wash his clothes.

## Case highlights conflict between police and monitoring group

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE murder of Kuldeep Singh Sekhon revealed a disturbing conflict between police and a group of activists which monitors racial harassment in west London.

The Southall Monitoring Group (SMG), which has nationwide links with similar groups, said that the killing by Steven Coker, aged 22, was the latest in a series of acts of racial violence and was deliberately "shorn of any racial motivation" by the police. The group says that there have been at least 50 racially motivated murders in Britain in the past ten years and claims that 30,000 racist attacks occur every year.

Police cannot confirm these statistics and say that the Sekhon killing has been cynically used by the Southall group to undermine the painstaking efforts of the police to ease racial tension and to improve community relations. Although it keeps no central statistics, the Home Office accepts that racism is a worryingly large problem and emphasises that there is strong evidence that many incidents are not reported.

After an initiative in 1988 by Sir Peter Lambert, the Metropolitan police commissioner, to combat racism, measures taken in Hounslow, west London, and approved by senior Asian leaders, have been met with scorn by the Southall group. Senior officers claim that police efforts are containing racism in Hounslow and this view is supported by moderate Asians, including Jagdish Sharma, a borough councillor and chairman of the ethnic minorities sub-committee.

Chief Insp Alan Chambers, the borough's community liaison officer, says that he is concerned about the motives of the SMG. "The group is in danger of polarising the community. They have used this tragic death as a political issue. They have tried to use it to promote the notion that violent racism is rife.

"We are looking at integration, community peace and harmony, and they are working in the opposite direction. They are constantly attempting to undermine the credibility of the police. I don't know what they hope to achieve." He said that three recent attempts to organise a meeting with the Southall group to discuss their differences with police have been ignored. The Crown Prosecution Service said that, on police evidence, it was not its contention that the killing was racial.

Det Supt Stewart Hull, who was in charge of the case, said: "The SMG think it was a racist murder but base it on the absence, to their knowledge, of any other motive. Guessing it was a racial attack is as bad as any other guess. My belief is that it was more to do with robbery or non-payment of fares. If I had any evidence to suggest it was a racist murder I would have made it public."

The Southall group maintains that Coker was a known perpetrator of attacks on Asian families in Ealing and Hounslow and cites as evidence one of two previous convictions for actual bodily harm on an Asian in 1988. Police maintain, however, that the attack was straightforward robbery.

Jagdish Sharma believes the killing was racial, but adds: "I would certainly say senior officers are keen to make people know that they are very serious in dealing with racial problems. I say that sometimes the SMG highlights matters and goes beyond the borderline."

David Mayer, locum senior officer of Hounslow racial equality council, said: "I think that race relations here are extremely good, but within some communities and estates there are pockets of serious racism. The police take matters seriously, though there is always room for improvement and there have been cases where they did not react as forcefully as they might. It is not the first time that the Southall

Monitoring Group, which was first funded by the Greater London Council in 1982, has been involved in controversy.

A grant from Hounslow council was frozen earlier this year while an internal review was carried out after allegations by two former caseworkers. The review found "weaknesses in the administrative and financial practices at SMG" and laid down a number of conditions for its management. However, it was agreed to release outstanding grant support suspended from last year's allocation and funding for the first two quarters of 1990, which has been set at £27,185.

The neighbouring borough of Ealing, which had agreed a grant of £40,000 plus another £18,300 if available for the year, withdrew all support on May 30 when the local election returned a Conservative administration.

The SMG was responsible for setting up the Sekhon family support group, which called on "all anti-racists to



Coker: a killer "inflamed by a mixture of drink and drugs"



Eyles: cleared of perverting justice by washing bloodstained clothes

an SMG-organised march in west London on the day of Mr Sekhon's funeral as well as a strike by mini-cab drivers and others.

Police, who maintain that the demonstrations were politically motivated, had already clashed with the Southall group over another notorious case last year involving the Kajals, an Asian family hounded out of their officen on the Sparrow Farm estate in Feltham after 18 months of abuse and attack.

After several severe beatings the Kajal family was ordered to display two posters, one a photograph of Salman Rushdie with the slogan "Rushdie in, Pakis out" and the other of Enoch Powell with the caption "Enoch says keep the Farm white".

Police accept that incidents were not always handled perfectly but say that resources allocated to the protection of the family were greater than any previously given to a local enquiry with the exception of murder investigations. In spite of convictions eventually being obtained against 12 of 19 people arrested during the affair, police were regularly accused by the SMG during the investigation of failing to take adequate action.

Relations between the police and the SMG came to the boil after Chief Supt Alistair McLean offered the group a meeting, only to receive the puzzling reply: "We are concerned that you do not consider the above case to be serious enough to warrant a meeting."

Last year police launched a three-pronged campaign against racial violence and harassment in Hounslow. A special squad was set up to investigate all reports, with the back-up of senior detectives, when major incidents occurred. A survey was made of the mainly Asian community of shopkeepers, who replied that they had no special concern and there was a leaflet campaign aimed at all households which encouraged people to report incidents.

The result was a 217 per cent increase last year in reported race cases compared to 1988. The statistic appears alarming but police attribute it to their success in encouraging Asians to report abuse.

Throughout the year, 168 cases were reported. Of these, three were of grievous bodily harm, 21 of actual bodily harm, and 18 common assaults, all these categories leading to 22 arrests. There were also 28 cases of criminal damage and 96 "non-crime" incidents of verbal abuse, usually disputes between neighbours of different races which police try to resolve through one-to-one conciliation in the presence of an officer.

Until the end of April this year, police dealt with a further slight increase in reported incidents, including one of grievous bodily harm and eight of actual bodily harm, bringing four arrests.

Rene Gill, a spokeswoman for the SMG, insisted that Mr Sekhon's murderer was racially motivated. She said: "Assaults and harassments are countless, but the police do not take proper notice. We have to tell them such-and-such an incident was racial. We should not have to do that."

"We are asking the courts to recognise racial attacks and murder for what they are and police to acknowledge it when an attack is racial. We want to see the courts slapping down on it and recognising racial motives. If the police and courts can make it known that they are clamping down, then hopefully the perpetrators will take notice and think twice before committing attacks like these."

The SMG said yesterday that police claims that the group had made political capital of the murder were "a predictable response". The group said it was unable to confirm or deny that it had been offered meetings by the police but said it would like to speak to them.

## No cash hit list, Arts Council chief says

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Arts Council has no hit list of clients ripe for devolution, its secretary general, Anthony Everitt, said yesterday.

After the Arts Council's monthly meeting, at which guidelines for devolving funding for most of its 160 clients to new regional arts boards were the main agenda item, Mr Everitt sought to calm fears that decisions had already been made on which clients were to be delegated and which retained.

"I'm not going to claim that we haven't started thinking seriously about it, but there is no list. No list of any kind is going to be worth anything until it has been fully dis-

cussed with the companies, and that's not going to happen until September," he said.

Responsibility for most arts subsidies will be delegated to the new regional boards under the policy of the previous arts minister, Richard Luce, on which he announced guidelines last week. Broadly, only touring companies with no established base and the five main national companies would remain with the Arts Council under the guidelines, but the boards will be more firmly accountable to the council.

The Arts Council will be looking to David Mellor, the new minister, for a higher profile for the arts and firm leadership in steering through

the innovations with adequate funding. By coincidence the council was meeting on Mr Mellor's first day in charge of the Office of Arts and Libraries and interrupted its considerations to welcome him when he paid a surprise visit.

"He did not make any pronouncements about policy, but he assured us of his commitment to the arts and displayed his already considerable knowledge of the subject," Mr Everitt said yesterday. "He's a good advocate — he was trained as one — and the arts needs advocacy. He told us he will be leading from the front."

Leading article, page 13

## Hundred prisoners may face rioting charges

By RONALD FAUX

AN ARMOURED makeshift spears, clubs and coshes collected from Strangeways prison, Manchester, after the 25 days of rioting was displayed yesterday by Greater Manchester police.

The debris from the longest siege in the history of the prison service included an imitation rifle, a Molotov cocktail and 40lb of ball-bearings in a plastic bowl. Det Chief Supt Arnold Beales, who is heading the enquiry into the riot, said that none of the weapons on display would be used in evidence when trials resulting from the riot begin in about a year.

He said the enquiry, now in its seventeenth week and the biggest criminal investigation carried out by Manchester police, had established that the riot had been planned by about a dozen inmates. He said that more than a hundred prisoners might face charges ranging from murder, conspiracy to murder, grievous bodily harm, rioting, serious criminal damage and arson. A remand prisoner, Derek White, died in hospital after being brought from the prison with head injuries.

Mr Beales said that the injuries inflicted on many people who could be classed as sex offenders was a serious element of the disturbances. Those assaults had been an orchestrated operation. The planning and actual start of the riot were also in his view serious aspects of the enquiry, but some of the reports emerging from Strangeways had proved to be grossly distorted or untrue.

There was no evidence of anyone being castrated. Reports of people hanging from, or being thrown from, balconies had proved to be rescitation dummies being thrown about. Reports of bodies were explained by the fact that some prisoners had taken drug overdoses and had fallen unconscious. "To the onlooker in panic in the middle of a riot these people would look to be dead," Mr Beales said.

The incident centre at Longsight police station, Manchester, reflects the magnitude of the enquiry. More than 80 police officers are sifting and collating statements and evidence and entering them into the computer.

Mr Beales said his officers had travelled hundreds of thousands of miles interviewing the 1,646 prisoners and



Mr Beales showing a mock rifle and other makeshift weapons captured after the Strangeways prison riot. A plastic bowl contained 40lb of ball bearings

500 staff who were in will be invited to identify in the morning is shrouded in mist but as the sun rises becomes clearly visible.

"All the ringleaders of the riot have been interviewed. In varying degrees they have cooperated. In some cases it does not matter whether they cooperate or not in view of the amount of evidence we have," Mr Beales said.

The investigation is digesting 175 hours of video tape obtained by a court order from television companies and one and a half miles of 35mm film, to produce 111 documentaries about individual prisoners and their activities on the roof of Strangeways. Each film will be shown to the prisoner who

is interviewed.

Four walls in the incident

room are covered with a 50ft mural plotting the relative movements of dozens of prisoners during the first two hours of the riot. The system is known as an Anacapa chart, named after an island off the California coast which early

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# Ring-fencing will increase rent debts, councils told

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of council house tenants falling into arrears with their rents will rise sharply because of government action to prevent poll tax income being used to subsidise housing, it was claimed yesterday.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the professional body for town hall treasurers, said that a sixth of tenants in London were already in arrears and that the introduction of the policy of ring-fencing, which is intended to make local authority housing accounts self-financing, would lead to rent increases and higher levels of rent arrears.

Regulations introduced in April prohibit councils from transferring money to or from their housing revenue accounts from which housing benefit for council tenants as well as the cost of repairs and management are paid.

The institute said that local authorities would be faced with the choice of cutting back on council house repairs to make ends meet, or raising rents. Almost two thirds of the four and a half million council tenants in England and Wales receive housing benefit and rents paid by tenants account for between a quarter and two fifths of the cost of providing council housing.

The latest edition of the institute's local government statistics, covering the financial year to March last year and published yesterday, showed wide regional variations in the level of council rent arrears. Plymouth had the lowest with only 0.5 per cent of rent unpaid at the end of the year.

The north London borough of Brent had the worst problem. Accumulated arrears from previous years meant that a sum equivalent to more than the entire year's rent bill was outstanding in March 1989.

Other authorities with serious rent arrears were Kirklees, West Yorkshire, with 49.6 per cent of rents unpaid, Islington with 30.6 per cent and Waltham Forest with 22.5 per cent. At the opposite end of the scale the charge-capped Barnsley council and Conservative-controlled Bexley were among those with arrears rates of less than three per cent.

A spokesman for the



A couple taking a stroll along the coast are dwarfed by stones for a coastal protection scheme which has started at Staithes, the North Yorkshire fishing village two miles northwest of Whitby.

The work, which will cost £370,000 and take three months to complete, has been commissioned by Scarborough borough council, with grant aid from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to improve the sea defences at the

harbour which has a long history of being overwhelmed by the sea.

Michael Clements, the council's director of technical services, said: "One of the main problems is that there is a gap in the harbour's northern breakwater. We want to strengthen it by closing the gap and raising its height." Fifteen thousand tonnes of granite gneiss rock armour are being shipped from Norway to Tentsport for the project. Thousand-tonne loads of stone

which arrived in Staithes yesterday were deposited at high tide near the village's two 65 year-old breakwaters. At low tide the stones, some of them weighing 12 tonnes, were moved into position by teams of bulldozers.

Villagers hope that Staithes' distinctive blend of tiny cottages and narrow alleyways which nestle below some of England's highest cliffs will be safe when the scheme is completed, but some have ex-

pressed doubts that the scheme will work.

Staithes' lifeboat secretary, Mr Clem James said that rocks bigger than those being used had been moved in the past by heavy seas, but Mr Clements said that engineering consultants had given assurances that the stones would withstand storm conditions. "The stone is of sufficient size to ensure it cannot be moved around by heavy seas," he said.

## Poll tax rioter jailed for two years for attack on police van

A POLL tax rioter was jailed for two years at Southwark Crown Court in London yesterday for kicking and punching a police van during the Trafalgar Square disturbances. That is the highest sentence to be imposed for crimes arising out of the riots.

Simon O'Reilly, aged 22, formed part of a screaming mob which surrounded the van, driven by a police woman, and attacked it. As he struggled with officers who arrested him other rioters showered police with missiles, the court was told.

Judge Rivlin, QC, told O'Reilly: "The occupants of the vehicle became extremely frightened for their own safety. If the vehicle had been overturned the consequences for the occupants may have

been very serious indeed. This was such a serious incident that you and others minded to behave in this way must appreciate that a substantial sentence of imprisonment, which is intended to be a deterrent, is inevitable."

O'Reilly, a labourer, of Dorset Road, Plumico, southwest London, was found guilty of violent disorder and criminal damage. The attack occurred in Northumberland Avenue, near Trafalgar Square, after a poll tax protest on March 31. A total of 434 people were arrested and charged with offences arising out of the riots. Twenty-one have been committed to the crown court for trial.

O'Reilly is the first to be found guilty by a jury at a crown court. He is also the first to be sentenced for the offence of violent disorder. Of those sentenced so far, for offences of affray and criminal damage, jail sentences have ranged between one and three months.

Deborah Little, aged 28, of Coniston Gardens, Scarborough, who claims exemption from the poll tax because she holds a share in a Cornish tin mine, has had her summons for non-payment withdrawn. She was one of 564 people facing the summons.

Mr Little's husband Neil bought four £1 shares, one each for himself, his wife and their two children. Once the courts have decided how to deal with shareholders in the Cornish tin mine Mr and Mrs Little might face another court hearing.

## Conscience cash plea for charity

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THOSE who benefit from the community charge could give the surplus to housing charities such as Shelter, church leaders said yesterday.

The leaders, from different denominations, gave warning of an increase in homelessness as a result of the charge and said money raised by housing charities "will alleviate the increasing problems facing those on low incomes for whom the poll tax could be the last straw".

The Rev Peter Sutcliffe, a Methodist and chairman of the London Churches Group, an ecumenical forum which represents London church leaders, said: "We have complained from the beginning that the poll tax is not based sufficiently on ability to pay. We have never advocated non-payment of the tax. To people who gain from the poll tax, and have a conscience about it, this will offer a means to channel the cost of collection."

An analysis of the findings by the *Local Government Chronicle*, published today, shows that the highest administrative costs, £53.27 a head, will be borne by charge payers in the London borough of Richmond on Thames.

However, Conservative-controlled Westminster council has spent the highest percentage of its residents' contributions on administering the charge: 23 per cent of each adult's payment, or £45.16, will go towards collection costs. The lowest figure, £3.69 a head, is registered by Labour-controlled South Tyneside.

The total cost of collecting domestic and business rates under the system which was replaced by the poll tax was £200 million or £3.96 a head. Richard Jones, the environment official in charge of implementing the community charge, said in an interview with the *Chronicle* that the figure of £411 was close to the

## Charge collection will cost English councils £411m

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of collecting the community charge in England will be £411 million this year, accounting for up to 23p in the pound on poll tax bills, according to new government figures.

Based on returns from 300 out of 370 councils in England, the figures show the cost of administering the new tax will range from £3.69 to £53.27 a head, some flagship Conservative councils are among those spending most on the poll tax.

The figures produced by Mr Jones's department suggest that not all inner-city areas will spend as much as Westminster. Labour-controlled Birmingham, which has the largest population of any single local authority area, has budgeted to spend £7.26 a head.

According to the journal's analysis, the five authorities spending most collecting the charge are the London boroughs of Richmond (£53.27 or 14 per cent of the payment), Tower Hamlets (£54.50 or 18.3 per cent), Westminster (£45.16 or 23.2 per cent), Kensington and Chelsea (£41.03 or 10.9 per cent) and Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire, (£3.33 or 9.3 per cent).

The revelations were made 24 hours after Labour published details of its "Fair Rates" policy which would involve replacing the community charge with a revised form of the old rating system. The proposal seemed to find favour with local politicians of all colours yesterday, although many Conservatives were unwilling to be seen to publicly embrace the Opposition proposal.

## Consultant hours may endanger patients, MPs say

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CONSULTANTS might be putting patients at risk by working excessive hours in the National Health Service and the private sector, a Commons public accounts committee report says.

Health authorities need to know the total hours consultants work in both NHS and private hospitals to ensure that they are not overworking, the report says. Doctors on full-time contracts are allowed to earn 10 per cent of their income doing additional private work, but those on maximum part-time contracts can do as much private work as they like provided they carry out certain NHS sessions.

Although there is little evidence of many consultants failing to fulfil their NHS sessions, the committee says that nobody knows how many hours they are working privately. "We consider it unacceptable that the existing controls over National Health Service consultants' contracts, particularly the income control mechanism, are not fully effective," it says. "The health department will need to establish effective controls which bring to light any neglect of NHS commitments."

Consultant job plans recently agreed with the profession require doctors to specify only when they are carrying out NHS sessions. Although this is a step in the right direction, the plans, which will operate from April, would require firm management to be effective, the report says.

"Job plans will not give health authorities a view of consultants' total National Health Service and private commitments," the report says. "Health authorities need a more accurate picture of the total level of consultants' commitments to ensure that their responsibility for the treatment of patients are not put in jeopardy through working excessive hours."

The report says that consultants' contracts should be held by district health authorities rather than regions. Under the NHS reforms the health department intends to devolve negotiation of job plans to unit level. The committee fears, however, that this will not provide local management with the necessary influence.

Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, defended consultants yesterday. He said figures from the Office of Manpower Economics showed that consultants worked an average 49 hours a week last year. He said: "The great majority work considerably in excess of their contractual requirements. The job plans introduced will clarify what is expected of a consultant and make it easier for health authorities to monitor the fulfilment of commitments."

The report expressed concern about the lack of information about costs in the private sector. It also criticises the private sector's poor contribution to training medical and nursing staff. "We are concerned at the relatively small contribution made by the independent sector towards pre- and post-registration of nurses. We recommend that the department press the independent sector to increase its contribution to training to reflect its use of National Health Service trained manpower."

Committee of Public Accounts. Twenty-eighth report: *The NHS and Independent Hospitals*. Stationery Office. £7.85

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Miss Corbly found a letter with a George V penny stamp behind her desk. It was an invoice that went missing in 1928 - she remembered it well. The reason it came to light was that everything is being moved about owing to the impending rebuilding works that have been commissioned. As the Chairman quips on an almost hourly basis, "We're adding another

floor but that's another storey." Ho Hum. Needless to say the various masons, hewers of wood and other craftspeople require us to give them room so give them room we must. By kind permission of the Chairman therefore, we present our first rebuilding sale for 84 years.

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## 'The people's judge' hangs up his wig

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most colourful and down-to-earth characters at the Central Criminal Court, Sir James Miskin QC, "the people's judge", hung up his wig and gown for the last time yesterday.

Sir James, aged 65, is retiring after 15 years in the Central Criminal Court's "hot seat" as Recorder of London where he was popular with juries and where the tough sentences he imposed struck a chord with the general public.

Sir James, often outspoken and controversial on the bench, listened to tributes paid to him yesterday in the famous number one court, packed with fellow judges, lawyers and court officials. Known as "whispering Jim" for his soft delivery, Sir James often brought a smile to the faces of jurors with his down-to-earth approach and use of earthy language. When a barrister carefully suggested that officers at a police station were inebriated, Sir James told the jury: "He means they were having a piss up in the nick."

A keen tennis player, golfer and angler, Sir James was described yesterday by Mr Justice Popplewell as a "fearless advocate, strong judge and delightful companion." He was a witty after-dinner speaker. His outspokenness on one occasion last year, however, resulted in calls for his resignation when he referred to black people as "nig nogs". The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, asked for an explanation. Sir James apologized and said it was a "silly expression" that he regretted having used. Sir James has

often criticized a "benevolent" parliament for fixing low maximum sentences, particularly the five-year term for drunken motorists who cause death by recklessness driving. Last year he called for the return of capital punishment for premeditated murder.

He became known as a fearless sentence when he jailed the leader of a rape gang for 19 years and imposed a 14-year sentence on a man for sexual abuse of a child. Society, Sir James often

remarked, had "become sick and tired of perverts preying on youngsters" and deterrent sentences had to be imposed to try and halt their "evil" activities.

As well as his judicial duties, Sir James played an important role in the pugnacious City of London as the court's senior resident judge.

Judge Vowden, who once infuriated Bristol City football fans with an off-the-cuff remark, died yesterday, aged 69. He made the headlines when he told a defendant, accused of receiving stolen goods taken from cars at the football ground car park: "It is bad enough to have to go and watch Bristol City without having things stolen."

The club sent the judge, who was a Swindon Town supporter, two directors' box tickets for the next home game. He accepted.

Desmond Vowden, a clergyman's son, had a distinguished career, serving at the Central Criminal Court before moving to the West Country. He spent 12 years in the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, retiring as a marine captain in 1950 to become a barrister. After spending 36 years in the legal profession, he retired in 1986 because of ill health.

Judge Granville Wingate, QC, brother of General Orde Wingate who led the Chindit guerrillas in Burma during the second world war, has died at his Sussex home. Judge Wingate, who sat at crown and county courts in the southeast, was 79.

Obituary, page 14

Consultant hours may endanger patients, MPs say

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

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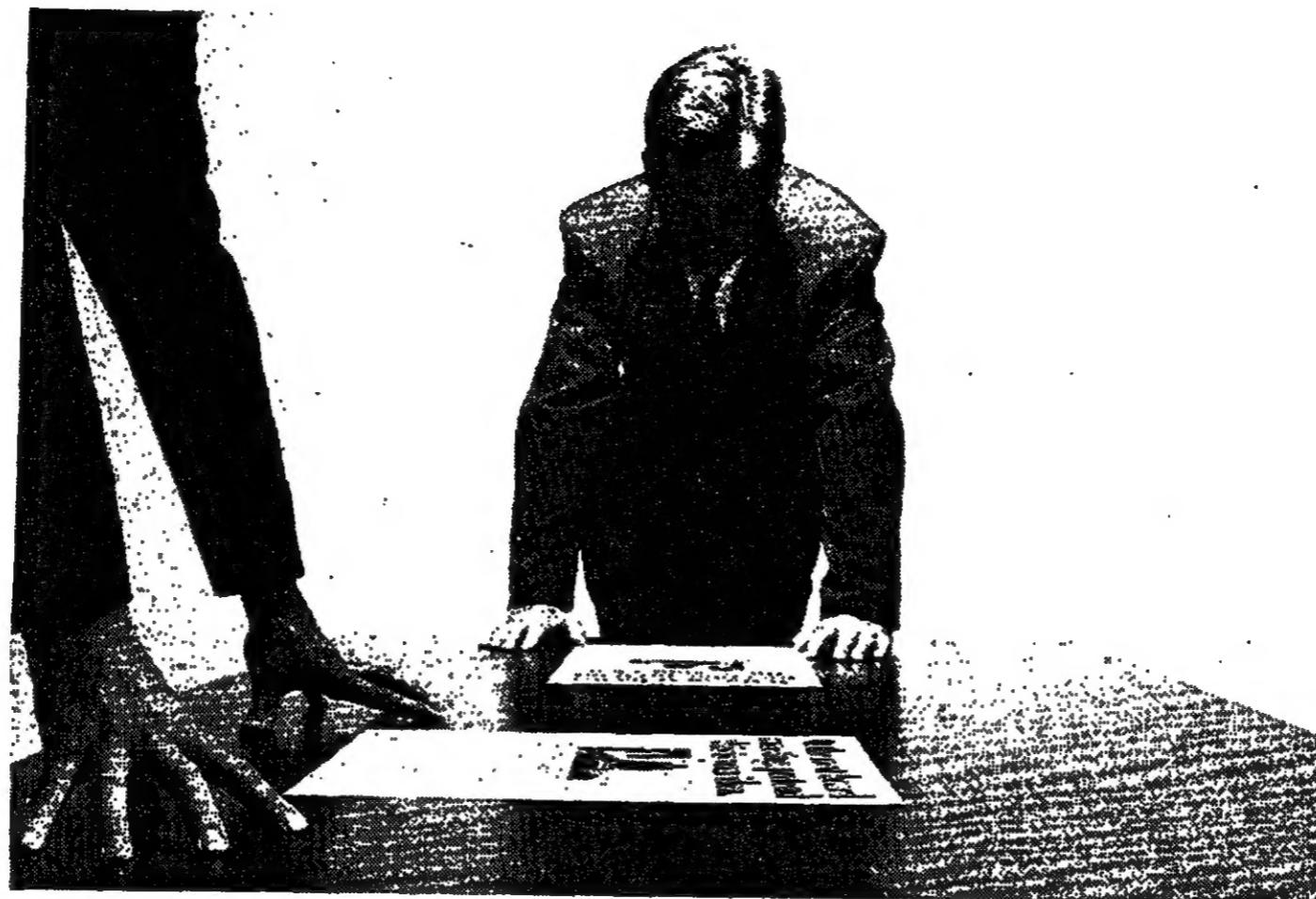
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If you'd like to write to us, the address is: New Youth Training, Department TI 003, Freepost CV 1037, Birmingham Road, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0BR.

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IT PAYS TO BE QUALIFIED.**

# Sacked ministers likely to get 'redundancy pay'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

CABINET ministers who are dropped in future reshuffles will collect a tax-free lump sum of nearly £9,000 as severance pay if a bill introduced yesterday goes through the Commons this autumn.

Parliamentary secretaries in the Commons who lost their jobs would collect £4,715, ministers of state, £6,212 and cabinet ministers, £8,780 on the basis of a quarter of their official salaries. There are slightly higher payments for ministers in the Lords whose salaries are higher, reflecting the fact that they have no MP's salary in addition to their pay.

The bill, which would put into practice recommendations made by the review body on top salaries in 1988, will not be made retrospective to cover ministers who lost their jobs in the reshuffle just completed. It will apply only to ministers under the age of 65 who are appointed within three weeks.

Ministers in the Lords who retire or are dismissed already get smaller golden handshakes: the bill will extend the system to the Commons.

Following other recommendations by the top salaries body, the bill provides for the prime minister and the Lord Chancel-

lor to retire on the same terms as the Speaker of the Commons, on half pay.

At present the prime minister receives immediately on retirement a pension of fifteen fortieths of final salary, fixed in 1937. The Lord Chancellor is given seventeen fortieths and the Speaker twenty fortieths under arrangements set up in the last century. The bill provides for all three to retire on twenty fortieths of final salary.

As prime minister, Margaret Thatcher is entitled to a salary of £60,851 a year, including her parliamentary salary as an MP, but she draws only the £55,221 to which other cabinet ministers are entitled. So far she has saved the exchequer more than £100,000 by doing so. Her pension will be calculated on the sum she is entitled to rather than on what she draws.

The new Ministerial and other Offices (Pensions and Salaries) bill also provides a pay rise for ministers in the upper House. It proposes a new night subsistence allowance of £4,672 a year from next April for Lords ministers (except the Lord Chancellor), the Opposition leader and chief whip in the Lords and the chairman and principal deputy chairman of committees. It is estimated that this change will cost about £300,000 in 1990-1.

The government has been under pressure to improve salaries for ministers in the Lords because of the difficulty of finding sufficient people of calibre to work at a salary that compares badly with rewards available outside Parliament.

A separate clause of the bill alters the salary arrangements for the Lord Chancellor. At present, his salary is £91,500 a year. In future, under the bill's provisions, it will be maintained at £120,000 a year more than the salary at the time being payable to the lord chief justice.

Present salary levels in the Commons and cabinet ministers £55,221 a year, ministers of state, £44,951 and parliamentary secretaries, £38,961, in each case including a reduced parliamentary salary of £30,101. In the Lords: cabinet ministers, £44,951, ministers of state, £39,641, and parliamentary secretaries, £33,541.

The Opposition has been consulted about the provisions in the bill, which is expected to be passed rapidly through both houses of Parliament in the autumn overspill session.

When the bill goes through, separate regulations will provide for an increase in MPs' widows' pensions. At present, they get half the pension to which their husbands were entitled. In future, that will be increased to five eighths, back-dated to 1988.



The Speaker, who is entitled to retire on half pay

## British banana battle

BRITAIN will try to protect its traditional banana suppliers in the Caribbean after the Single European Act comes into operation in 1992, Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, said in the Commons.

During a short debate, Mrs Chalker said that the prime minister had written to Jamaica and the Windward Islands assuring them that Britain would fight hard to make sure they continued to enjoy preferential arrangements.

John H. Smith (Vale of Glamorgan, Lab), who opened the debate, said that the end to preferential treatment would be devastating for the Caribbean and for the Barry docks in his own constituency through which the fruit was imported.

## German unity 'offers us chance'

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE opening up of East Germany provided an opportunity to British business which should be seized to gain the greatest possible advantage, Tristan Garel-Jones, foreign office minister, told the Commons.

He was replying to a debate that was initiated by Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) with a bitter attack on the prime minister.

Mr Sedgemore said that Adolf Hitler had looked for scapegoats and found the Jews. Enoch Powell looked for scapegoats and found the blacks. "Our prime minister and her advisers looked for scapegoats and found the Germans. Thus does the carousel of history go round in frightening fashion."

History would record that 1990 was the year when "the German question" returned to Britain and a cabinet minister and prime minister had demonstrated that the establishment could be spiteful and vindictive and capable of pursuing a vendetta against an ally, not for decades but for generations.

"Civilised leaders around the globe, from President Bush down, have looked on open-mouthed as Britain has made itself look ridiculous."

Margaret Thatcher was out of tune and out of place in the modern world. While she obviously thought she came to those matters with the unconscious realisation of effortless superiority, they all knew that in fact she was the mad queen.

## Guardian not to be punished for leaked paper

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

MPs will no longer sanction such punishments.

On this occasion they considered the disclosure to be more serious, saying that "no classified document has leaked from a select committee before, which sharpens our apprehension at the possible damage to committees by the leak". But still they sought no sanctions against the journalists concerned, nor against Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*.

However, in a clear warning to MPs and others who leak documents, the committee said: "We reserve entirely the right in future to recommend punishment where an offender responsible for a leak has been identified". They urged those on committees to do everything possible to keep confidential unpublished evidence.

As is normally the case in such enquiries, the source of the leak has not been traced despite extensive investigation by the privileges committee, the National Audit Office, the trade department and the Home Office.

The Labour MP Tony Benn later released the text of his own minority report, rejected by the privileges committee, in which he called for greater openness with documents. He criticised the committee for "huffing and puffing" and failing to follow up vague threats about dealing with breach of privilege.

Second report from the Committee of Privileges, Session 1989-90 (Stationery Office, £6.45).

## Caroline rescue fails

HOUSE OF LORDS

AN ELEVENTH hour attempt to rescue Radio Caroline and other pirate radio stations from what were described as draconian bullying and high-handed measures being taken by the government failed in the Lords.

An amendment moved during the seventh and final day of the committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill, to limit the government's action to where Radio Caroline or other pirates interfered with legitimate radio stations, was defeated by 93 votes to 29, a government majority of 64.

The vote came, however, only after criticism of the measures from a succession of peers from all parties and none.

Lord Monson, who had earlier relayed how the Dutch authorities and British officials had boarded Radio Caroline last year and smashed equipment, said he did not think any offshore radio station had ever broadcast anything offensive.

The pirate station's material was innocuous and, despite the black propaganda of its enemies, including the Home Office, it did not interfere with emergency and safety services.

Lord McNair (Lib Dem) said that the government's action against Radio Caroline was wanton vandalism, an example of the larger lout mentality in practice.

Earl Ferrers, Home Office minister of state, said that he was surprised by the reaction of peers.

Pirate radio stations were anchoring themselves deliberately outside British territorial waters and transmitting using frequencies allocated to the United Kingdom and preventing their being awarded to others who were prepared to pay for them. They were outside the law and had deliberately put themselves outside the law.

Enforcement powers were needed and what was being proposed was consistent with the United Nations convention that covered interference and reception.

If the frequencies were being used, radio signals could inadvertently interfere with safety services.

Loopholes in the copyright law that allow the format of television shows such as *Opportunity Knocks*, *Mastermind*, and *The Antiques Road Show* to be stolen from the originators and reproduced without payment are to be looked at again by the government.

An attempt to prevent satellite or cable television companies from getting exclusive rights to cover the big national sporting events was rejected by 67 votes to 39 - government majority of 8.

## Ivory ban may be rescinded

The international ban on trade in ivory has been effective in the war against ivory poachers and may be lifted as the threat to the African elephant population recedes, David Heathcoat-Amory, junior environment minister, said in a Commons debate.

The price of ivory had fallen so low that elephant poaching was no longer worthwhile and in some areas of Africa had virtually stopped, he said.

The environment department said later that if the ban, signed by more than 90 countries, were lifted, it would be replaced by strict controls.

## Child benefit

The cost of raising child benefit to £8.91 to keep it in line with the rise in the retail price index would be about £780 million. Gillian Shepherd, under-secretary for social security, said in a written reply.

## Pension age

The net cost of lowering the pension age for men to 60 would be about £3 billion. Gillian Shepherd, under-secretary for social security, said in a written reply.

## Royal assent

The following acts received royal assent: Appropriation; Finance; Aviation and Maritime Security; Government Trading; British Nationality (Hong Kong); Representation of the People; Marriage (Registration of Buildings); Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland); Contracts (Applicable Law); Hasmonean High School; River Tees Barrage and Crossing; Medway Tunnel; Associated British Ports (No 2); City of London (Various Powers); Greater Manchester Light Rapid Transit System (No 2); British Railways; Pontcysyllte South Pier Extension; Great Yarmouth Port Authority; The Care of Cathartes Measure also received royal assent.

## Moscow to speed up withdrawal

The Soviet Union is withdrawing its troops from Mongolia faster than planned. About 1,000 per month. Soviet troops are already in Ulan Bataar, the first departure of the Mongolian army staff, said yesterday. The withdrawal is due to be completed by the end of 1991.

More than expected in the

initial stages of the withdrawal, according to 100 candidates still in the race after the first

100 members of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party or 80 members of the Mongolian People's Democratic Party. The second

stage will be held on

October 15. The House of

Lords will resume a week earlier than planned to the report stage of the Environmental Protection Bill. The new session will start in mid-November.

## Democrats want UN arms register

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

A UNITED Nations register of all international arms deals and a UN-administered 1 per cent levy on the arms trade are among the proposals in a Liberal Democrat green paper on sustainable world development to be presented to this year's party conference.

The document, *Shared Earth*, calls for an end to public spending on promoting arms sales and an embargo on arms sales to human rights violators. Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, agreed yesterday, however, that until there was an international authority to define those violators, most countries would go on selling arms freely.

The green paper published yesterday calls for the overseas development administration to be reformed as an independent ministry. It also wants Britain to increase development assistance to the level advised by the UN, of 0.7 per cent of GNP, over five

years and then to 1 per cent over the next five years.

The paper urges that progress in developing countries should be measured not just by gross domestic product but also by the adoption of indicators such as life expectancy, literacy and purchasing power a head.

It calls for the United Nations environment programme to be given the authority, resources and political backing to administer global climate funds and to police a market in "emission trading licences" for carbon dioxide and other gases.

The document adds that countries that have fallen into arrears with commercial bank debts should become eligible for IMF and World Bank loans. It calls for further reductions in government-to-government debt-for-environment swaps.

*Shared Earth* (Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley St, London SW1P 3NB; £4.75).

## Tamil Tigers attack

About 40 Sri Lankan Tamils have been killed in the Tamil Tigers' latest attack on three villages in the North Central Province in the past few days.

Widening the deadly

conflict, Tamil rebels

were on the run.

## Teacher sacked after girl dies

A Japanese teacher was killed yesterday over as the teacher

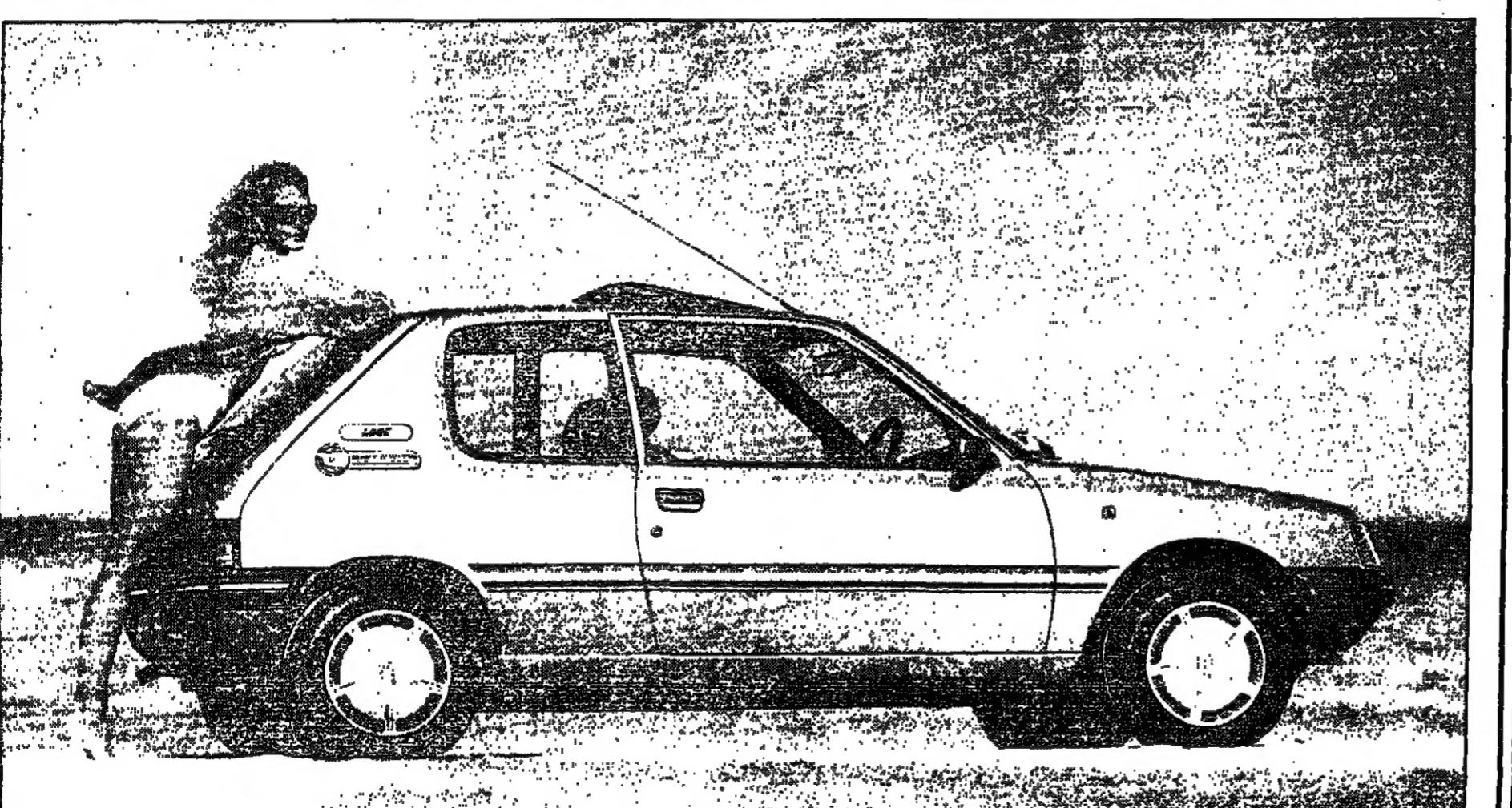
of a girl, aged 13, at a school gates shut.

It happened in the western

city of Kyoto, Japan.

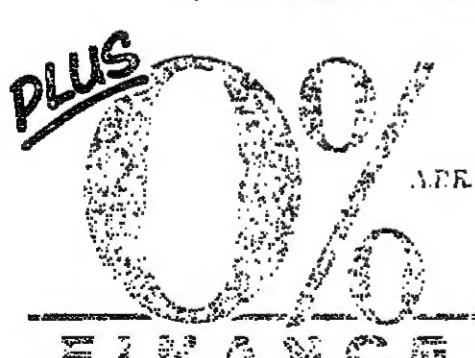
It happened between the gate

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It comes in either dazzling white or chic metallic blue, and has a number of very special features. Like a pop-up glass sunroof, special wheel covers, distinctive body side tapes and, of course, that special edition LOOK badging. Tempted? It gets better.

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It comes in either dazzling white or chic metallic blue, and has a number of very special features. Like a pop-up glass sunroof, special

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# Harvest panic grips Soviet Union despite bumper crop

From MARY DEJEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

AS THE Soviet grain harvesting season approaches its peak, Boris Yeltsin, the reforming president of the Russian Federation, yesterday offered special incentives to farmers in an attempt to avert "a catastrophe". His scheme, outlined in an appeal published on the front page of the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* newspaper, will give farmers special cheques, called "Harvest '90", to be redeemed for goods which are in short supply.

Mr Yeltsin's talk of "catastrophe" was the latest in a series of apocalyptic statements from Soviet leaders about this year's harvest, which is said to be one of the best in recent years.

The Stavropol area in the northern Caucasus, one of the Russian Federation's main grain-growing areas, has reported the highest yields on record and already completed its contracted deliveries to the state.

This year the difficulty is less with the crop itself than with the harvesting,

storage and delivery of the produce. At the end of last week, the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, spoke of "serious concern" that the grain was not reaching the state. By July 16, he said, 7.5 million tonnes of grain had been delivered, which was only ten per cent of what was required.

Mr Ryzhkov gave a warning that, because of its shortage of foreign exchange, the state was not in a position to repeat last year's purchases of 44 million tonnes of grain abroad.

Mr Yeltsin's appeal spoke of a "critical situation in food supplies" in the Russian Federation and *Pravda* recently published a front-page article with the doom-laden headline "Will we save the

elsewhere, newspapers have published complaints about the failure of the state to deliver fruit and vegetables to the cities. "It is in the orchards but not in the shops," protested a headline in the government newspaper, *Izvestia*.

A correspondent reported that the apricot trees in Armenia were laden with fruit which was falling off the trees and

rotting, while in Moscow the shops were selling hard green travesties of the real thing.

One explanation for this year's problems is that the Soviet authorities are so unused to having a good harvest that their equipment and facilities, which are stretched even in an average year, cannot cope. But this accounts for only a fraction of this year's difficulties.

There have been serious shortages of fuel in many of the harvesting areas. Even though oil exports to East European countries, in particular Czechoslovakia, have been cut back in an attempt to meet domestic requirements, the adjustment has generally been too late.

A senior official at the government commission on food and procurement was quoted as saying that agriculture had not received 176,000 tonnes of the petrol and 462,000 tonnes of the diesel due in the first half of the year. He said this could translate into 25 million tonnes of grain, or more than 10 per cent of the total, that would not be harvested in time.

Even if the requisite amount of fuel were available, however, it might well not be used. Reports abound of too few lorries, refrigerated trucks and combine harvesters, not to speak of the shortage of spare parts.

The correspondent reporting on the rotting Armenian apricots discovered that the Armenian authorities had hoped to sell fruit in exchange for meat and other food products from other republics. They had even chartered aircraft to fly the fruit to the customers, but contracts had not been concluded in time and the whole project had collapsed. Now the producers were being blamed for a failure which was not of their making, he said.

The Soviet economic reform programme has undergone so many changes that producers, state and party authorities are uncertain how much authority they possess to market, sell or deliver their goods.

A further problem concerns manpower. In previous years, whole sections of the urban population, especially manual workers and students, were

conscripted at short notice to help with the local harvest.

This year the system has broken down. In many places the conscription was organised by the local party committees. This was an unpopular part of their work and they are now using the enhanced power of the elected local government authorities vis-à-vis the party as a reason for not doing it. Local governments are not doing it either, partly because they disapprove of the principle and partly because they do not have the influence to organise what was a massive transfer of often unwilling labour.

The new system of enterprise self-financing also means that factories cannot afford to "pay their debts to the countryside" and work with a skeleton staff in the hope of making up lost production later. Now the greater autonomy enjoyed by managers means that many can refuse requests to supply seasonal labour or demand compensation to defray the cost.

Despite the almost doubled state purchase prices for grain this year, farms do not have funds to pay for seasonal

labour at anything like urban rates. Mr Yeltsin's "Harvest '90" cheques are an attempt to give farms and their workers a guaranteed return on their work in the recognition that payment in ordinary roubles, with their negligible purchasing power, will be no incentive.

A further problem has scarcely been mentioned officially. Republics like the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which produce the bulk of Soviet grain, have new nationalist-minded governments with an interest in retaining as much of their produce as possible for their own use.

Mr Ryzhkov's complaint about the relatively small amount of grain delivered to the state suggests that some areas may be withholding grain, either to meet their own needs or with a view to extracting a higher price for it later. That higher price would not be in roubles, but either in a convertible currency or in goods. Such transactions could equally be concluded on a bilateral basis between individual republics, circumventing the state purchasing mechanism altogether and stripping it of much of its power.

## Stasi chief charged with harbouring terrorists

From ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

ERICH Mielke, East Germany's former state security minister, was arrested yesterday and charged with harbouring terrorists and preparing internment camps for dissidents under the communist regime.

Günter Seidel, the East Berlin state prosecutor, said that the former Stasi chief had been declared fit for trial by an independent commission of doctors. Since his fall from power in October he has been living in a safe house, and was previously declared both physically and mentally unfit to face trial.

Herr Seidel said that he had "concrete evidence" that Herr Mielke, aged 82, had offered leading Red Army Faction terrorists asylum and that he had facilitated changes of identity to protect them from West German justice.

"In view of his responsibility for this, and the extra evidence of the planning of isolation camps, we had no choice but to proceed," he said.

Eight Red Army Faction terrorists wanted on kidnap and murder charges have been discovered living under false identities in the East. Three have since been extradited to West Germany. Plans for internment camps intended for political opponents were found in the former minister's files. Work on one near the southern town of Erfurt was

about to begin when the regime fell last autumn.

The arrest of Herr Mielke looks likely to step up pressure for the prosecution of Erich Honecker, the disgraced communist leader himself. An examination last week deemed him unfit for trial on health grounds, but doctors have ordered a revision in the near future, and Herr Seidel said yesterday his prosecution "was justified by the facts that we now have".

Statements by senior Stasi officers indicate that the two men made the decision to harbour West German terrorists in 1979 because the fugitives reminded them of their own days in the resistance. In private memos to his select "Officers for Special Operations", Herr Mielke said that the use of criminal methods was justified. "These are as nothing compared to the damage to our humane socialism which would ensue if we do not defend it," he said.

Herr Honecker recently denied that he had known of the move. "I am without any guilt and certainly had no knowledge of their presence," he said last week in a statement, adding that Herr Mielke had often taken decisions on internal security without his knowledge.

The perceived incompetence of the East German legal authorities in failing to secure the prosecutions of former leading functionaries has met mounting anger. Initial attempts to charge Herr Honecker, Herr Mielke and Günter Mittag, the hardline economics chief with corruption, abuse of office and treason failed when it emerged there was no adequate provision for a trial in East German law.

Only Harry Tisch, the former trade union boss, was arrested and is still awaiting trial. But the charges against Herr Mielke clearly contravene the East German constitution.

• BONN: West German Bundestag members will agree the rules for the first pan-German election in December at a special sitting on August 9 (Ian Murray writes).

Leaders of the West German coalition parties agreed yesterday it was first up to the East German government to put forward its ideas. Lothar de Maizière, the prime minister, is to chair a meeting of experts today to try to work out proposals.

• HANOVER: Three Soviet soldiers who defected from East to West Germany last week are entitled to apply for asylum and will not be handed back to Soviet authorities, officials said. (Reuters)

## Moscow to speed up withdrawal

Ulan Bator — The Soviet Union is withdrawing its troops from Mongolia faster than scheduled. About 80 per cent of 65,000 Soviet troops have already left. Colonel Dorjtoiv, the first deputy chief of the Mongolian army general staff, said yesterday. The pull-out is due to be completed by the end of 1991.

Meanwhile, the opposition did better than expected in the first round of Mongolia's general elections, according to results published yesterday. Of the 799 candidates still in contention after the first round, 679 are members of the communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party or are independents and 86 are members of the Mongolian Democratic Party. The second round of voting will be held on Sunday. (Reuters, AFP)

## Tamil Tigers kill 40 villagers

Colombo — About 40 Sinhalese civilians have been killed by fighters of the Tamil Tigers in attacks on three villages in the Eastern and North Central provinces in the past few days (A Correspondent writes).

Ranjan Wijeratne, the defence minister, said yesterday that 1,000 soldiers were deployed at Elephant Pass in the northern Jaffna peninsula, and security forces were firmly established further south in Mankulam and Vavuthura. He said that in these areas, the Tigers were "on the run".

## Teacher sacked after girl dies

Tokyo — A Japanese teacher was dismissed yesterday over the death of a girl, aged 15, crushed as the teacher slammed school gates shut. The incident, in the western city of Kobe, happened after Toshihiko Hosoi, aged 39, allegedly closed a metal gate as the student was running into the school with other late pupils. Ryoko Ishida's head was crushed between the gate and a brick wall. (Reuters)



President Valdaih, left, sitting beside Presidents Havel and von Weizsäcker during the opening of the Salzburg Festival yesterday. Before



## Jewish activists disrupt Waldheim reception

From BRENDA FOWLER IN SALZBURG

TWO American Jewish activists, shouting "Shame for meeting Nazi Waldheim", interrupted the reception by President Valdaih of Austria of the West German and Czechoslovak presidents at the opening of the Salzburg Festival yesterday.

The protesters, Rabbi Avraham Weiss and Jacob Davidson, of New York City, were dragged away by their collars, taken into custody and released on bail, they said.

They were just a few yards from where Herr Valdaih and his wife were waiting to welcome President Havel of Czechoslovakia and President von Weizsäcker of West Germany, and began shouting seconds before the three leaders were to shake hands.

The ensuing disorder delayed the presidents' initial encounter and guards hustled them off separately into the festival house. Mr Havel and Herr von Weizsäcker were

warmly greeted by Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian chancellor, and Josef Riegler, the vice-chancellor, who were waiting inside the building and chatted briefly with them.

In his keynote address at the opening of the festival, Mr Havel spoke in terms that clearly applied to Herr Valdaih, who faced international criticism for concealing his wartime activities with the German army in the Balkans.

"The assumption that one can slip through history unscathed, being able to rewrite one's own biography, belongs among the traditional Central European delusions," Mr Havel said in speech which received loud applause. "If someone attempts to do this, he hurts himself and his fellow citizens, because there is no total freedom, where total freedom is not given free rein."

During the opening ceremony, Herr von Weizsäcker was

set between Mr Havel and Herr Valdaih and the three leaders talked among themselves at least once. Some observers had expected Herr Valdaih to try to use his first meeting with Western leaders to pull himself out of the international isolation that has marred his four-year presidency. Among Western leaders, only the president of Cyprus and the Pope have made official visits to Herr Valdaih.

In his remarks, he marked the official opening of the festival, Herr Valdaih did not mention the controversy that has surrounded the presidents' visit to Salzburg and emphasised the cultural, rather than political, significance of the visits.

It was "a great pleasure" to extend a heartfelt welcome to President von Weizsäcker and President Havel, Herr Valdaih said. "Gentlemen, I especially value your close feelings for Salzburg and its festival that are expressed by your visits here today."

Though Mr Havel decided to go ahead with the encounter with the Austrian president out of respect for the Austrian nation, his seven-hour visit was orchestrated to limit direct contact with Herr Valdaih. A meeting between Mr Havel and Austrian artists that was scheduled for last night was moved forward so that Mr Havel could avoid spending all afternoon in Salzburg.

Austrian politicians said they were satisfied with the two leaders' presence and applauded Mr Havel's speech, which they said was forthright.

## Pacific atoll to be US dumping ground

By ANDREW McEWEN  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHNSTON Atoll: the final destination for the US chemical weapons being shipped from West Germany, might have been any British schoolboy's idea of a desert island fit for Robinson Crusoe. Daniel Defoe's work had been published 88 years before Captain C. J. Johnston, a British mariner, discovered two tiny islands enclosed in a semi-circular coral reef, halfway between the Hawaiian and the Marshall Islands.

The atoll is so small — only 3,000 ft by 600 ft — it remained unclaimed until 1858. The Americans declared it a bird sanctuary in 1926 and its military potential was not developed until 1941. A naval airfield took up almost the whole length of the island.

After the second world war, Johnston Atoll played an important role in testing and storing American chemical weapons. Some 300,000 artillery shells containing nerve and mustard gas have been kept there since 1971.

However, in 1985 the US Congress passed legislation calling for the destruction of all such weapons by 1997. A high-temperature incinerator, costing \$240 million (£133 million), is under construction and nearly ready for testing. The 100,000 shells in West Germany are to be shipped to the atoll and stored until they can be destroyed in 1992.

The atoll was chosen for its remoteness, being 715 miles from Honolulu. Nevertheless, its new use has dismayed environmental groups and Pacific communities. The Federated States of Micronesia said last week: "Transporting the European stockpile halfway around the world inescapably increases the risks."

The flagship of the Greenpeace environmentalist group,

U.S.S.R. vs. ALASKA

PACIFIC OCEAN

JOHNSTON Atoll

1000 miles

Rainbow Warrior, staged a protest last month by sailing around the atoll displaying banners reading "Stop poison gas burn" and "What we burn today, we eat tomorrow". Concern has also been expressed in Hawaii. Skip Spaulding, a lawyer for the Sierra Club Legal Defence Fund, an organisation which promotes environmental issues, described the use of the atoll as "a very bad decision based on undue haste". John Waihee, governor of Hawaii, said last week: "The Pacific must not become the dumping ground for the world's chemical agents and munitions."

The US Army said the operation would have minimal public health, safety and environmental effects. "Safety of people and nations and protection of the environment is foremost in our minds," said John Fairbank, a spokesman for the Army Western Command in Honolulu. Further reservations have been expressed by leaders of the Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, New Zealand and American Samoa.

Sebia Hawkins, the Greenpeace Pacific campaign co-ordinator, said: "Of course Greenpeace applauds efforts to rid the world of chemical weapons, but incineration is not the answer; more appropriate alternatives must be found. Greenpeace will not sit by and watch Johnston Atoll become a permanent mid-ocean toxic-waste dump in the Pacific."

The organisation fears incineration would contaminate the area around the atoll and accumulate in the food chain, threatening all marine species in the area.

## Defector says Havana needs a miracle

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A SENIOR Cuban economist who defected to the United States last month has predicted that his country's "rapidly deteriorating" economy will be dealt another blow when the Soviet Union cuts aid and begins to trade only in hard currency next year.

He also said, in his first news conference since defecting, that President Castro was preparing to put Cuba on a war footing.

Only the "miracle" of a sharp rise in world sugar prices could rescue the Cuban economy, and "I do not think that will happen", said Ramón González Vargas, former deputy secretary to Comecon.

Cuba was already in "permanently recession", with very low efficiency and productivity, he said. Plans being developed by the Castro regime would force Cubans into the country to work like peasants and introduce strin-

gent measures to deal with fuel and electricity shortages.

Senior González said Cuba was completely dependent on Soviet aid, which he put at between \$3 billion and \$6 billion (£3.3 billion) a year, a quarter of its gross national product. Its total debts were at least \$10 billion, while its annual hard currency earnings were barely \$1 billion.

Senior González, a former employee of Cuba's foreign trade ministry and national

price commission, said he had wanted to defect for up to ten years, but would not go without his family. His chance came when he was posted to Moscow last year. He drove to Berlin in his Soviet-made Lada and just carried on, ending up at the US embassy in Madrid and flying to Miami on July 5.

He is one of a number of prominent Cubans believed to have defected in recent weeks, including senior diplomats.

They were satisfied with the two leaders' presence and applauded Mr Havel's speech, which they said was forthright.

## Prague's Red Berets ready to sell their deadly skills

From PETER GREEN  
IN PRAGUE

expecting changes in the finance laws so the money we earn won't go to the coffers of Mr Klaus.

Colonel N sees a chance for the Red Berets to cash in on the forthcoming construction of a cellular phone network in Prague by two American telephone companies. "The Red Berets could set up the network," he said.

Other skills could also be marketed. The Red Berets are experts in training dogs to sniff out drugs, explosives and people. Dogs once used to sniff railway carriages for stowaways trying to break through the Iron Curtain could now be used to find earthquake or avalanche victims.

Red Beret divers could be used to clear shipping channels of mines, or for underwater demolition work. Major J.N., Colonel N's aide, said: "We could even work as



Mugabe  
amnesty  
benefits  
Nkomo  
guerrillas

From JON RATH

FRANCIS Maude, the outgoing foreign office minister, told China yesterday that it must release more people detained after the Tiananmen Square massacre if it wanted to persuade the European Community to resume soft loans. Observers believe China will soon announce that more detainees have been released to secure the loans.

Mr Maude ended his Peking visit by handing to his Chinese hosts an Amnesty International list of more than 600 detainees. In effect writing a price tag for the resumption of soft loans, he made it clear that more releases were needed before the EC would ease sanctions against China.

Britain, which is confined by the EC ban, believes China has already done enough by lifting martial law in Peking and Tibet, releasing some detainees and allowing Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist, to go abroad, but France, Denmark and The Netherlands are still pressing for more releases.

Mr Maude could make only half-hearted claims for movement on Hong Kong, the main item in his talks with Chinese officials, on his return. "But what I think we have been able to do is generate a constructive atmosphere in which to manage and resolve the problems between us," he said.

He described as "progress" Peking's "relatively muted" criticism of British legislation to grant passports to 250,000 Hong Kong citizens and of the Hong Kong bill of rights.

British sources said Mr Maude confirmed his concern about human rights abuses in China to the release of detainees. A Western diplomat yesterday said: "I would have hoped that he would have linked the requirements for a resumption of soft loans to a whole range of human rights abuses and to economic reform and even to commercial realism."

China has already announced the freeing of 881 people arrested for their involvement in last year's anti-government protests. However, only about a dozen have been named, and there is no way to verify the figures.

The few who are known to have been released live in fear of re-arrest. They have not been tried or declared innocent, but told by the authorities they have been freed as a gesture of goodwill and must stay silent. Observers believe that while some prominent intellectuals may have been released because they are known abroad, many ordinary office and factory workers are still in detention.

China's ruthless suppression of freedom of speech has not softened since the massacre. Flogging political and economic reforms have stagnated.

• TOKYO: Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday urged industrialised nations to restore relations with China more than one year after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"Isolating China from the rest of the world and putting a brake on China's move towards democracy would not have any positive effect on peace and stability, not only for Asia, but also for the world," Mr Kaifu told business leaders.

He said the policies of the industrialised democracies towards China would further isolate China and hamper Chinese efforts for democratic reform. (AP)

# Kuwait tries to save face as it gives in to Baghdad

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN KUWAIT

DESPITE denying that it had bowed to intimidation, Kuwait yesterday was apparently seeking a face-saving formula to comply with Iraqi demands in their dangerous oil and territorial dispute.

Prospects for a solution to the confrontation that threatened to provoke a new war in the northern Gulf looked promising in advance of the first round of direct talks between the two countries. The talks will begin in Jeddah, the Saudi resort, tomorrow. But Western diplomats in Kuwait said that even if an accord were reached promptly, it might be only provisional, given Iraq's long-term political, economic and military designs on its tiny neighbour.

Arab and Western analysts said that Kuwait had been left with no choice but to offer political concessions and an unspecified sum to placate Iraq. Kuwait is expected to discreetly include that sum in its already scheduled "contribution" to Iraq's reconstruction programme.

Western diplomats in Kuwait, meanwhile, treated with scepticism reports saying that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has begun to withdraw some units of the estimated 30,000-strong force deployed near the border last week. Arab analysts in Kuwait believe that Iraq is likely to maintain troops in the area to keep Kuwait under pressure.

Perhaps the most visible indication of the success of Egyptian and Saudi Arabian mediation has been the sudden halt in Baghdad's blistering propaganda campaign against Kuwait and the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Equally indispensable for Iraq during the talks will be the need to obtain solid Kuwaiti promises to observe Opec oil quotas and policies that could eventually raise the price per barrel to \$25

## Australian fathers get year's leave

Melbourne — Australian fathers won the right yesterday to take up to one year's unpaid paternity leave after the birth of a child. In a landmark decision, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission recognised that the nature of modern parenthood had changed and that mothers were no longer sole providers of infant care.

But the Australian Council of Trade Unions failed in its attempt to secure the right for new parents to take a year's unpaid leave together. The commission decided that a new-born child's parents should be allowed to share parental leave of 52 weeks.

Women were granted up to a year's maternity leave in 1979 and employers required to give them back their old jobs when they returned to the work. The executive director of the New South Wales Employers' Federation, Garry Brack, said he did not expect many men to take advantage of the new provision in the short term. (AFP)

## Kidnap murder

Buenos Aires — The son of an influential Peronist trade union leader and friend of President Menem has been found murdered in the Argentine seaside resort of Mar del Plata, 19 days after he was kidnapped. According to the interior minister, Julio Mera Figueras, the police found Guillermo Ibañez's body with a bullet hole in the back of his head on Wednesday. (Reuters)

## Island reforms

Praia — Aristides Pereira, president of Cape Verde islands, opened an extraordinary congress of the ruling PAICV party here yesterday as a first step towards ending 15 years of one-party rule. It was a milestone in the party's history, he said. (AFP)

## Nairobi arrest

Nairobi — A Kenyan opposition lawyer and journalist, freed on Wednesday after three weeks in detention, was re-arrested immediately after his release, his office said yesterday. Gitobu Imanyara is the editor of the Nairobi Law Monthly, which has criticised the government for infringing the independence of the judiciary. (AFP)

## Cult group held

Mexico City — Police in the Durango state of Mexico have arrested 14 people accused of belonging to a Satanic cult suspected of carrying out more than 30 human sacrifices over seven years. (Reuters)

## Green victory

Oslo — Norway has cancelled an expulsion order against the Beluga, a Greenpeace research vessel, after deciding that local police had over-reacted to a protest at a paper mill. "We've been allowed to continue our trip," said Paul Bugge, a spokesman for Greenpeace on board the vessel. (Reuters)

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OVERSEAS NEWS 11



Keeling over: the Egyptian economy, like this ship aground on a Mediterranean holiday beach in Alexandria, is on the verge of collapse

## Gulf mediator Mubarak feels the pinch as Cairo debt burden soars

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE success of President Mubarak of Egypt in defusing the Gulf crisis, the latest in a string of diplomatic triumphs, has highlighted the contrast between his country's external influence and its dire domestic circumstances, which have brought it close to economic collapse.

Foreign debt is around \$50 billion (£27.6 billion), more than four times its size during President Sadat's era, the budget deficit is at least 8 per cent of gross domestic product, and banks have refused to lend the government new funds.

To add to the troubles which are causing serious concern among Egypt's Western friends, who regard its stability as crucial to Middle East peace, the most populous Arab nation now faces an aid cut-off from its two most important donors, the United States and France. "We have been hearing for 20 years that Egypt had reached the end of

its rope, but something always comes along to save it," said an Egyptian economist. "This time I cannot see anything coming along."

A long-running series of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund is continuing with no hope of a rescheduling of the country's debts. "We have been moving in a vicious circle for more than three years," said an IMF source, anticipating the departure of an Egyptian delegation to Washington for more talks.

The key to the disagreement, which led the normally temperate Mr Mubarak to label the IMF the "quack doctor", is the speed with which Cairo is prepared to cut its budget deficit and reduce the subsidies on basic items that are a barrier to economic reform.

The president is haunted by the memory of the 1977 bread riots which nearly toppled his predecessor, and insists any change must be gradual in order to avoid the prospect of more street unrest. "We want reform," he said earlier in the unseemly haggling over terms. "But I tell the IMF that this reform must be in line with our social and standard of living."

In recent months, the prices of many essentials have risen between 40 and 100 per cent, in an attempt to exploit national euphoria resulting from Egypt's better than expected showing in the World Cup, the price of sugar and electricity both jumped by 60 per cent during the competition with no public announcement.

But the IMF, mindful of the rapid collapse of the last agreement in 1987, has not been sufficiently impressed.

One of its reports on Egypt's parlous economic state said: "Delaying adjustment might very well be more costly subsequently in economic and

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Mr Mubarak, who has steered Egypt back to a position of influence in the Arab world after ten years' isolation caused by its peace treaty with Israel, is hopeful that his diplomatic successes will pay off.

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# The reticence that roared

Philip Howard

**N**icholas Ridley blew out of the water another national myth — the one about English understatement. For this century at least we have prided ourselves that reticence was the supreme virtue of the upper and middle-class Englishman. He never got excited, he kept a stiff upper lip (and a loose lower jaw) at all times, and he always said fathoms less than he meant. His most enthusiastic commendations were "rather" and "not half bad", taught him at public school, where it was a sign of weakness to show emotion. He described a disaster as "rather a nuisance"; and if he said, "I don't like that woman", she should remove herself at once, and consider emigrating. When his Treasury team resigned, he described it as a little local difficulty. Even the maid announcing the sinking of the *Titanic* put it mildly: "I'm afraid there's been a boating accident".

Foreigners never believed in this strong, silent stereotype for a moment. They have met our tourists and seen our tabloid press. They know that the national characteristics of English speech are hyperbole, obscenity, bigotry and repetition. O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us/To see oarsels as oarsels see us. In his observations about our German allies, Nicholas Ridley demonstrated the Englishman of the new age: outspoken, downright rude, and impetuously over-the-top, dragging in Adolf Hitler to lend a touch of sophistication to his argument.

This legendary English understatement is connected with our embarrassment about showing emotion. And this arises from our dislike of children. The earliest travellers to England commented on the national practice of preferring dogs and horses to children, who were sent away as soon as possible, to learn manners at court, or later to a boarding school, where they could be inculcated with the virtues of cold baths, Christianity, cricket, and litotes. The girls were farmed out as soon as decently possible, into matrimony, or, failing that, as governesses and teachers, preferably somewhere a long way away, like Belgium. We pride ourselves on the economy of our body language, and on conveying our meanings by nuance and indirections. Not any more, it seems. We are supposed to hate fuss. As one of us observed: "The English find ill-health not only interesting but respectable, and often experience death in the effort to avoid embarrassment". She must have been talking about a previous generation. Ours goes out of its way to create embarrassment. You have only to watch the behaviour of our drivers in traffic jams, our travellers on public transport, our drinkers in the pub, to recognise that the strong, silent, reserved Englishman is extinct.

In the legend, politeness and euphemism were the makers of

English discourse. Tell that to the Ridleys. Grammarians describe the supposed English understatement as *meiosis*, which is Greek for lessening. You can commit *meiosis* by substituting a woolly phrase for a sharp one (community charge instead of poll tax); by euphemism ("he's had a drop" means "he's pissed out of his mind"); and "your German friends" means "bloody Krauts"; and by frequent use of the wimpish modifiers "somewhat", "rather" and "to a certain extent" ("I'm quite cross" = "I am in a blinding rage; watch out" and "with the greatest respect" = "I am going to break the neck off this bottle and ram your bottom").

The other peculiarly English type of *meiosis* is *litotes*, the not-in device. The Greek rhetorical term means frugality, and it is a not unusual trick in writing. There are occasions when "not unkindly" conveys your meaning more exactly than "kindly". When Paul writes to the Corinthians, "I praise you not" (he is on about women wearing hats in church) his *litotes* has the effect of an emphatic: "I disapprove vehemently". "No mean city" applied to Glasgow means, "we are the greatest". "Not bad" means "bloody good". But *litotes* can become an irritating trick, exemplifying the worst of mandarin, Wykehamist prose, to show off rather than convey plain meaning to the peasants.

When the lawyer clears his throat, and says, "This is a by no means uncomplicated case", we understand him to mean: "There are only a dozen people in the United Kingdom who are meant to understand this, and you are not one of them." "Less than truthful" is a euphemism for lying, and "economical with the truth" is another weasel evasion. If somebody arrives with a reference saying he or she is "not untaut", we are not swept away with enthusiasm. "What kind of pretentious prat wrote that?" we grow. George Orwell recommended that we should inoculate ourselves against the *litotes* disease by memorising the sentence: "A not unblack dog was chasing a not unsmall rabbit across a not ungreen field". Orwell was an Englishman who did not suffer from the English vices of hypocrisy, evasion and understatement.

Nicholas Ridley should have reached in his vocabulary for his *litotes* and euphemism when he sounded off. It is perfectly possible to convey the kind of Little Englander bigotry he had in mind without blunt precision. We should all have known exactly what he meant. In fact, history suggests that the English were blunt, hyperbolic, and foul-mouthed. Not for nothing were we known by the French as "Godams". Victorian prudery and class anxiety made us mealy-mouthed. It looks as though we are reverting to race.

...and moreover

## HENRY STANHOPE

**O**ur fridge-freezer has irretrievably broken down. Fifteen years ago we didn't have a freezer. Thirty years ago we managed without a fridge. We are now totally dependent upon both. No ice, no frozen food; warm butter; runny butter and stale milk... it is hell.

We are sustained by memories of the past. At least we know what life was like before. My grandmother-in-law, for instance, could remember what life was like before we had anything. I used to think tomatoes, along with apples, grew in Eden. But she could recall the first delivery from Spain coming to the Gloucestershire village where she lived. She could clearly remember life without a lot of things, like aircraft, cinemas, cars and combine harvesters. When these broke down her equanimity was daunted.

Sir Walter Raleigh's mother must have known the world without potatoes. "Well, I wouldn't tell Wally," she used to say, "but personally I don't like this foreign food. Of course it's all right for the young..."

We are creatures of the times that we recall. I can remember life before sliced bread, the Costa del Sol and television. It follows that I recall television when it started: Gilbert Harding, the TV Toppers, and interludes that commonly surpassed the programmes in between. No one who saw the Cup Final in 1950. Arsenal and Liverpool playing in grainy black and white, would complain about any sports programmes today.

I was reared in the age of steam and village stations. No high-speed diesel loco can match the romanticism of those days. The sight of a clanking, hissing "Castle" class thundering into Shrewsbury station, the windows of its coaches dripping with rain, conveyed a very real sense of travel.

On the other hand one travelled fairly hopelessly. It took a damned long time and tested our island nation's stoicism. One sat, knees interlocked, on moquette seats, staring at sepia prints of Weston-super-Mare, as the train limped from village halt to village halt. When passengers now protest about dirty trains, or those that turn

up 15 minutes late, one nods in more tolerant understanding.

Most of all I can recall life without hygiene, or at least when its influence was less pervasive. I can remember when we all swam in the Severn without fear of coming out in spots, and when biscuits were sold in open paper bags, not plastic packs requiring the SAS to force an entry. The grocer weighed them out from large tins, changing half price for the broken bits at the bottom.

We had a local grocer when I was small who kept an ever-growing family of grey cats. I don't think he actually bred them — they did well enough on their own — though he bore a remarkable resemblance to them, being small, plump and grey with white whiskers.

The main distinction lay in our grocer's trilby hat, which he wore throughout the seasons and in bed.

Nor did he, like the cats, lie on the counter. They sprawled there, licking their chops and purring softly, their tails swishing dangerously near the bacon slice or the large blocks of cheddar cheese. They were not the only fauna in the shop. From the central light there hung a yellow flypaper, slowly turning in the dusty draught from the open door, the day's kill, wings fluttering feebly, adhering to it.

I can just recall when the milk came in churns, brought round by a local farmer in his cart. He dispensed the foaming liquid in a measuring jug while his sheep dog leapt up and down and chased its tail. In those days the milk went off within two days or settled on top of one's tea in small white flecks. This was often a sign of "thunder in the air".

But I cannot remember anyone falling ill. Salmonella was something in tins one bought for tea, and listeria a rare kind of potted plant. Our antibiotics saw them off on our behalf.

It is with such remembrance of times past that we are now coping with our temporary privations. White spots on our tea? Piffle! Butter dripping and tonic? Pshaw! Butter dripping in sympathy with the Double Gloucester? So what! Fings are simply what they used to be *chez nous*.

The innocent bystander has never been able to understand why Labour preferred complexity and smoke-filled rooms to doing things the easy way. The difficulty has been the unions who, until now, have had a direct say in choosing candidates. Labour's organic relationship with trade unions dates from the party's earliest days, but for a long time relations have been strained, and as early as the 1950s some far sighted politicians were envisaging an amicable divorce — in 1959 Douglas Jay even suggested dropping the label "Labour". Since, however, the unions not only financed the party's organisation, but also controlled its constitution, no change could happen without their consent. In any case, most middle-class members cherished the mystical notion of a "working class" movement.

In the past, many Labour seats were fiefdoms run by a single

union whose domination of a constituency management committee ensured the selection of its nominee. This system was disintegrating, even before the unworkable electoral college method was introduced after the 1987 election as a half way house — with up to 40 per cent of the vote still held by the unions, and the rest made up by a membership ballot. As far as the leadership was concerned that had been part of the problem. The fragmentation of the old structure had opened the door to intriguing by small groups.

The new system should end the worst of such abuses. But, as it stands, one-member one-vote also deprives unions of virtually all say in parliamentary choices. Couple this with the likely decision to cut the union block vote at party conference from 90 to 70 per cent, and you are looking at a very

different party, in which unions have greatly reduced importance.

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## THE LIVERPOOL CAULDRON

Labour's national executive decided on Wednesday that toughness remains the only policy towards its Liverpool district party, which is still heavily polluted by Militant and its supporters. The local party has been duly suspended for the second time in five years. Neil Kinnock has used an embarrassing fringe to assert his political virility and demonstrate to the public his vigour in pursuit of moderation.

Mr Kinnock said on Wednesday that Liverpudlians were "sick and tired of the posturing of people who constantly flout their responsibilities". But if Mr Kinnock's hope is simply to go on making life as difficult as possible for Militant until it gives up, the strategy does not seem to be working. Liverpool's leftists pop up again whenever they are suppressed. And every time they do so, the party nationally is vulnerable to the charge that they are still the true face of Labour-in-office.

The 14 Liverpool councillors who refused to vote for an official Labour group proposal to raise council house rents have had the party whip removed. The district auditor is now considering suspending the council, and taking over the running of its business and surcharging its councillors unless the books are promptly balanced. Labour must distance itself from that impending disaster as fast as it can.

There is more behind Liverpool politics than Militant infiltration and the never-ending tug-of-war over council finance. A police enquiry is now in hand into allegations of widespread municipal corruption. Some of those who were the object of Mr Kinnock's earlier efforts to cleanse the Liverpool party of Militant, such as the former deputy council leader Derek Hatton, have indicated their willingness to assist that enquiry.

The city's two leading churchmen, Archbishop Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard, have recently returned from a trip to Westminster to appeal for help from Chris Patten, the environment secretary (who must be very tempted to stand back and let the worst happen), from Mr Kinnock (who will have needed no urging to plunge in) and from the Liberals' Paddy Ashdown (whose members on

Liverpool council have been in mischievous alliance with the Militant block.)

The politics of Liverpool are deeply rooted in the city's religious history. Today, local priests command few votes, though once the Catholic archbishop had only to wish a certain action on the council and it was done. But the timely collapse of the old sectarian tradition of Liverpool politics, the end of Catholic dominance of the Labour party in particular, laid the foundations for the rise of Militant.

Much the same happened in other metropolitan Labour parties, often dominated by a complacent and narrow-minded "Catholic mafia" reflecting the concentration of Irish expatriates in industrial inner-cities. In some cases, the Trotskyists are actually the children and grandchildren of the old Catholic mafia, idealistically disillusioned with the stagnation and Tammany Hall tradition of the old-style Labour parties. Some hard-left Labour parties even became virulently anticlerical.

Liverpool sectarianism was never a pretty sight. While the Catholics voted Labour, the Protestants, working class or not, would vote for the Orange or unionist ticket from which the city's present Conservatives descend. Many working class Protestants now vote Labour, many prosperous Catholics Tory. But tradition still guarantees Labour a large proportion of the Catholic vote, a reflex which explains why, however dreadfully Labour runs Liverpool, it has had an almost unbroken hold on power.

Mr Kinnock's best hope is that his other reforms announced this week will supplement Wednesday's suspensions and rid him of these turbulent gadflies. The proposals aimed at running local parties on the basis of one-member-one-vote — rather than through sometimes phoney union membership lists — will remove Militant's main infiltration route, through affiliated trade union branches. This is the true rot, within the Labour party. It is Mr Kinnock's credit that he wishes to get rid of it. It is his party's shame that he has not yet succeeded. Genuine democracy in Liverpool's Labour party would be the most powerful antidote to the Militant poison.

## A BALANCE FOR IRAQ

The praise lavished by Arab leaders on President Mubarak's peacemaking between Iraq and Kuwait this week reflects more than their immediate aim, which was to help avert an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. President Saddam Hussein's latest burst of aggression, this time directed against Iraq's allies, has impressed on Iraq's militarily weak neighbours the need for a regional counter-point to Baghdad. Egypt, which despite its economic weakness is a militarily significant contender for the leadership of the Arab world, has again become indispensable to the Arab balance of power.

Even if the deal now being thrashed out amounts to an almost complete Kuwaiti surrender to Baghdad's outrageous terms, Arab governments have an interest in presenting it as a triumph for Egyptian diplomacy. That would remind President Saddam that they do not intend him to stalk the Middle East unchallenged.

The end of the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq has upset a fragile equilibrium. Stalemate, while publicly deplored, privately suited their weaker neighbours. Israel profited most from Iraq's preoccupation, but for Kuwait too, it was better that its giant neighbours should fight over the Shatt al-Arab waterway than that Iraq should press its longstanding claims to Kuwaiti islands in the Gulf. Much as the Arab world distrusts Iran, President Saddam has never inspired confidence even among his allies. The quiet overtures to Iran by the Gulf states reflect nervousness about Iraq's soaring ambitions.

Thanks in part to \$35 billion in interest-free loans from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Iraq has emerged from the war in formidable shape militarily but severely damaged economically: a dangerous combination for a dictatorship. Having backed Baghdad while war lasted, the Gulf states, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are now uncertain how to restrain Iraqi power. Until this week, they have chosen the course of least

resistance, feeding the megalomania of a man who likes to be compared to President Nasser.

Iraq's use of chemical weapons, first against Iran and then against its own Kurdish people, perversely made it a force to be reckoned with. When President Saddam announced on April 2 that Iraq would not hesitate, if attacked, to let its "fire consume half of Israel", Arab leaders rushed to express their solidarity. The Arab summit in May defended the execution of the "convicted spy", Farzad Bazoft, and Iraq's attempts to obtain nuclear and chemical technology from the West. Even Syria, Iraq's enemy, dismissed the idea that it could be "considered a threat to another Arab country" as "illogical". Now President Saddam has swivelled his guns, justifying aggressive threats by accusing "some Arab rulers" of joining America to "undermine Arab interests and security".

For now adulation will give way to appeasement, in the form of debt forgiveness and yet more economic aid. If President Saddam can relieve the economic hardship at home caused by war damage, the continued drain of main training (and extravagantly re-equipping) a million-strong army, and astronomical foreign debt, his uneasy allies may hope for a lull in foreign adventurism. But there is a growing recognition that this may only defer the reckoning, unless the Arab world's diplomatic isolation can be reduced.

Buried in some of the encyclopaedic communiques issued by Arab gatherings in recent months are references welcoming "positive" developments in relations with Western Europe, and calls on the United States to rebuild bridges with the Arab world. For such a strategy, Egypt would be the natural architect. If Arab countries are serious about righting the balance of terror on their own doorsteps, they may find wretchedly poor but respectable Egypt a better investment for their petrodollars than militant Iraq.

## DEVOLVING THE ARTS

Minister for the arts is a ghastly job. Trapped between the rock of Treasury intransigence and the hard place of a massively self-important lobby, the incumbent has a brutal choice. Side with the lobby and he is condemned to "failure to deliver". Side with the Treasury and every evening engagement becomes a misery. To cap it all, the minister's job is almost exclusively to finance a doppleganger of himself, the Arts Council chairman. Two bodies supposedly laying down "policy on the arts" is a ridiculous duplication.

The old minister, Richard Luce, was regarded as a success because he professed a blissful ignorance of all arts, and wandered about looking nice. Blame for any government shortcomings attached to the Arts Council or the Treasury or Margaret Thatcher, never to be seen. His appointment shows that the prime minister recognises there is political return to an active arts policy. Squeezing that return from an artistic community disinclined to believe good news about itself is not easy.

His successor, David Mellor, has a hard job. He is ambitious, activist and a "lover of the arts". How he will disentangle his zest for policy innovation and publicity from that of the Arts Council chairman, Peter Palumbo, has yet to be seen. His appointment shows that the prime minister recognises there is political return to an active arts policy. Squeezing that return from an artistic community disinclined to believe good news about itself is not easy.

Mr Mellor inherits a most important shift in public strategy. Although there has been a 22 per cent real terms rise in public finance for the arts in the past decade, it has been directed towards what is known as incentive funding rather than flat-rate subsidies. This has benefited the more dynamic arts organisations, especially in the regions, at

the expense of the big London companies long run as heavily unionised nationalised industries. Private fund-raising rather than public deficit now draws down extra grant.

Mr Mellor's task is to extend this principle from the corporate to the individual sector. The Treasury's payroll-giving scheme for tax deduction has been a fiasco. The Treasury hates open-ended tax expenditure, and has blighted British charities as a result. But the logical extension of Mr Luce's reform is to encourage audiences, members, participants, enthusiasts to support their chosen arts, rather than ministries, officials or the inertia-bound Arts Council.

The new minister's second and more controversial task is to implement the regionalisation of such direct subsidies as are proper in an aesthetically aware state. The devolution of Arts Council money has already been declared to the dismay of many London companies. In future, representatives of the people of Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol will determine the nation's patronage of their local arts. This is right and proper, however painful the exercise may prove for both local and national disbursers of funds.

Of course the great national institutions need a measure of security and generosity — though they would deserve it better if they stopped regarding their subsidy as a divine right and everybody else's as a needless extravagance. Generosity they have had. Generosity they have wasted. Generosity they still deserve. But over-centralism in arts patronage is a sign of an immature democracy. Devotion to regions, to cities, to corporate sponsors, to individuals is the better route. Mr Mellor should make it his motto.

## EC lynchpin for general election

From Dr William Wallace

Sir, The Prime Minister's "end of term" speech to the 1992 committee (report, July 20; Diary, July 21) has led to speculation on potential dates for the next general election. The possibility has been raised of her government's running for a full five-year term to an election in early July, 1992.

The calendar of the European Community ought to make ministers very wary of that option. On July 1, 1992 the British government will take over the presidency of the Council of Ministers, taking its turn in the six-monthly rotation among the 12 member-governments. The presidency provides the opportunity for each government to push its priorities further up the Community agenda, to define European priorities more clearly in its own terms and to influence the style and content of the Brussels debate.

Mrs Thatcher's government made good use of its last period of office in the presidency in 1986 to give added impetus to the proposals to complete the internal market by 1992. The Italian government, now in office, is understandably emphasising the importance of Mediterranean issues to the Community.

The first month of a presidency is crucial in setting an agenda, picking up the threads of negotiations already under way and consulting with the Commission and with other governments. It is in terms of pursuing British interests within Europe, the worst possible time to be approaching the climax of an election campaign, in which European issues may well be a factor.

Whether or not the current government is re-elected for a fourth term, or whether a new and unavoidably inexperienced government emerges, some weeks will be needed for incoming ministers to draw breath and learn their dossier. The latest feasible date for an election should therefore be May, 1992 — or early June in extremis.

Yours etc.  
WILLIAM WALLACE  
(Deputy director),

The Royal Institute of International Affairs,  
Chatham House,  
10 St James's Square, SW1.  
July 25.

## Poll tax payment

From Mr R. Monroe

Sir, A report (July 18) by Robin Oakley and Rodney Lord said that non-payment of the community charge, coupled with higher public spending, is putting the government's surplus at risk.

Neither I, nor my wife, has paid one penny of the £341 community charge that is due from each of us but this is entirely the fault of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

Within days of receiving their demand for the charge I signed a direct debit provided by the director of finance to enable him to collect the charges from my bank in ten monthly instalments starting in May. To date, no debits have been made and when I recently telephoned his office I was told that I had not yet been "put on the computer" but probably would be in time for them to collect the August payments.

Apparently no extension of time will be allowed for full payment so it is their intention to increase the monthly payments to compensate for their inefficiency.

Doubtless Wirral will be amongst the many local authorities who will complain that their financial planning has been thrown off course by those who have failed to pay or paid late and this will be an additional excuse for higher charges next year.

Yours faithfully,  
R. MONROE,  
Stilemoors, Village Road,  
Lower Heswall,  
Wirral.  
July 23.

## Aid for ANC

From Mr Paul Renshaw

Sir, Mrs Thatcher's belated recognition (report, July 19) of the crucial role which the leadership of the ANC will play in the creation of a non-racial South Africa is much to be welcomed. It will be even better if HM Government, with its EC partners, now offers very substantial financial support for the ANC and other organisations pledged to seek a fully democratic solution to South Africa's crisis of state.

Such a solution remains threatened by the conflict in Natal, which tragically continues to make headline news. As church leaders told me in Pietermaritzburg recently, Mr F. W. de Klerk, as State President, and Chief Buthelezi, as KwaZulu's Minister of Police, need to take urgent, decisive action to restore law and order in a manner which will create confidence that they have democracy for all South Africans at heart.

Given Mrs Thatcher's close relationship with both leaders, HM Government is well placed to bring influence to bear on Pretoria and Uliundi. Without a rapid solution, negotiations will be jeopardised and the non-racial development of South Africa could still be aborted.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL RENSHAW  
(Africa secretary),  
The British Council of Churches,  
Inter-Church House,  
35-41 Lower Marsh, SE1.  
July 23.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Defence of infant death study

From Dr P. J. Fleming and others

Sir, Mr Coleridge Smith (July 24) suggests that our work on sudden infant death syndrome might well have caused distress to parents after the death of their babies. We have no reason to believe that this is true and indeed the study was originally instituted largely at the request of bereaved parents who wished for carefully collected information about what had happened to their babies to be made use of in terms of trying to understand how and why the children had died.

The main aim of the contact which our team had with bereaved parents was to provide help and support to those parents, almost all of whom were very keen to give a detailed account of what had happened. This information was then used to provide bereavement counselling and support over a prolonged period.

The suggestion of observer bias in the collection of data was addressed by us. We took great care in the way in which the information was collected both from the families of infants who had died and from controls. The way in which all questions were asked and the approach to the interview by the three people involved were standardised to as great an extent as possible, bearing in mind our prime objective of helping the families.

The information about bedding and sleeping position was only one facet of a study concerning growth, development, medical, social and environmental factors and their relevance to "cot death".

The difference we observed in the sleeping positions between infants who died and the control infants was large, but was actually slightly smaller than the difference observed in some previously published studies, including the Knowelden report of the Department of Health.

In some countries (e.g. Hong Kong, Czechoslovakia) where the supine sleeping position is almost universal for babies, the incidence of cot death is very low. Previous studies published from Ireland, France, the United Kingdom and Australia have confirmed the

higher risk of cot death for infants nursed in the prone position. A recent paper from Holland showed that the incidence of cot death there had fallen when recommended practice changed from the prone to the supine nursing of infants.

The widespread UK practice of prone nursing of infants is of relatively recent origin. It is based on extrapolation of results of studies of premature babies for whom the prone position confers some respiratory advantage. In our paper we were most careful to point out that premature infants and those who vomit whenever they are laid flat may be better prone.

However, for all other infants we are not aware of any evidence that the prone position confers any advantage and no published study of which we are aware has shown that the risk of cot death is lower for babies nursed in the prone position.

The only way in which information about the sudden and unexpected death of a baby can be collected is by discussion with the parents. In our study the combination of such information with similar information collected quickly from carefully matched control infants in the same community allowed the identification of potentially important differences between the two groups.

If results obtained by careful study do not fit in with previously widely held but unproven ideas about infant care it is surely appropriate to re-examine the basic of those ideas. We should of course have preferred to develop the debate of this subject through the columns of the learned journals rather than your own.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER FLEMING  
(Consultant paediatrician),  
P. J. BERRY  
(Consultant pathologist),  
RUTH GILBERT  
(Lecturer in child health),  
University of Bristol,  
Department of Child Health,  
Bristol Maternity Hospital,  
Southwell Street,  
Bristol, Avon.  
July 25.

### Community relations

From Mr Jonathan S. Stanley

Sir, Your report (July 18) of the Commission for Racial Equality's re-launch of community relations councils (now racial equality councils) is welcome. However, in reporting the administrative and structural changes involved, you failed to identify the conceptual shift of which the relaunch was only one aspect.

Justly or not, the Commission has long been criticised by many members of Britain's black and ethnic minority communities for pursuing a condescending and institutionalised approach to issues of race relations. It was said that the Commission was so busy acting in the best interests of those communities that it had no time to discover what their concerns were or how they wanted them addressed.

The restructuring of community relations councils was only part of the launch of "the new partnership for racial equality" which explicitly

Yours faithfully,  
J. S. STANLEY (Director),  
Greater London Action for  
Racial Equality,  
Southbank House,  
Black Prince Road, SE1.  
July 18.

### Building controls

From Mr John Brodrick

Sir, The proposal to make unauthorised building a criminal offence (report, July 23) is presumably aimed at gross breaches of planning regulations. However, the interests of the private citizen are more frequently harmed by developers making modifications to buildings as they build and then presenting these to the local planning authority as a fait accompli.

My experience in monitoring a property development in St Albans suggests that so long as a developer does not grossly abuse a planning approval he can do as he pleases without prior reference to the local authority.

Local planning control is hamstrung by the fear that if unauthorised building is halted, massive civil damages will be incurred when, two years later, the court takes a lenient view of the transgression.

Yours faithfully,  
G. SINGH,  
The Queen's University of Belfast,  
Department of Italian Language  
and Literature,  
Belfast BT7 1NN.  
July 23.

### Language teaching

From Professor G. Singh

Sir, To equate with realistic need for success, must bring the hearts of those with trained and informed knowledge. Many members of my society fully favour much smaller human scale in-patient/community psychiatric units. Most are appalled at the avoidable suffering inflicted on the most vulnerable members of society.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY JACOBS  
(Chairman, Society of Clinical  
Psychiatrists),  
The Coach House,  
Wormingford,  
Colchester, Essex.  
July 20.

### Healthy dogs

From the Secretary of the Pet Health Council

Sir, Your report (July 21) on banning dogs from parks failed to point out that the risk of disease to humans from infected dog faeces would be dramatically reduced if all owners regularly wormed their dogs, especially in the puppy stage.

This is an inexpensive and simple matter of







Should those other than the perfectly formed be quite so keen to bare all when the sun shines?



Pounds of flesh: will we be seeing more of men's knees at work and play as Britain heats up? And should we be seeing less of women's bottoms?

## Flesh perhaps too willing

**P**olicemen sweltering on beach patrol in Bournemouth this week pleaded to be allowed to swap their regulation issue trousers for navy shorts. Their request was turned down with a touch of postcard humour — "where would they put their truncheons?" a senior officer said.

Elsewhere a more po-faced Post Office management threatened mailmen in Herefordshire with the sack if they defied a ban on Bermudas. Such dress, pronounced an executive, "is not part of the Royal Mail image".

The nation, it seems, is not ready for the male knee. According to Anthony Edwards, a spokesman for the British Clothing Industry Association, it is all a question of credibility. "A policeman in shorts would not be taken seriously, because he looks as if he is having fun. Men dress not to attract physically, but to attract through the uniform of their profession. They're saying they earn and are successful, in a position of power rather than through manual labour."

"There have been attempts by designers to introduce shorts for formal wear, but the problem always is — what do you do with the rest of the leg? If you have long socks and formal shoes you defeat the object, and you can also make yourself look a complete idiot. If you have sandals, it's no longer formal."

John Taylor, the editor of the magazine *British Style*, thinks the problem lies with the knee. "One of the uglier parts of the body." Shorts must be at least four or five inches above the knee, he believes, and socks no higher than mid-calf — "otherwise you concentrate attention on the knee".

Mr Taylor draws a distinction between what he calls the "sanculotte of street wear, those huge baggy things made of cheap material" and something more businesslike,

which may possibly have a future if the British climate becomes substantially warmer. "At the moment, though, I don't think so."

Dress standards at work vary enormously. Shorts would be unthinkable, it seems, at the Stock Exchange, where a spokeswoman confirms: "I have certainly never seen any. Of course it is up to individual member firms, but I don't think they would be considered appropriate." In the Civil Service, however, the code seems considerably more relaxed. A spokesman says: "Contrary to popular myth we don't go around in bowler hats carrying umbrellas. Staff must inspire confidence, but if shorts fit the bill it wouldn't be against any rules to wear them."

The job itself may BBC a senior personnel officer comments: "You won't find our commissioners in full uniform above and shorts below, but it might be different in a recording studio or filming on location in a heatwave. We try to take a common-sense approach."

The Navy seems to have it all worked out: "tropical rig" features white shirts, white shorts, white shoes and white socks. Unfortunately, it can only be worn in designated "tropical" areas — and Britain, whatever the temperature, is not one of them.

The problem seems to lie not so much with the male leg but with its bareness, says Lou Taylor, the principal lecturer in dress history at Brighton Polytechnic. "Men's legs have frequently been on display, in doublet and hose and knee breeches."

"It seems to be bare flesh that we regard as offensive," she says, "particularly in unexpected places. Then we think it's really rude."

LIZ GILL

**A**t a formal dinner last week, held on one of the hottest nights of the year, a number of high-achieving, middle-aged career women who should have known better were wearing sun-tops and inflicting bare, wrinkled, un-tanned upper bodies on the rest of the guests. As temperatures soar, standards of dress seem to slip.

Everywhere you go at the moment, you are liable to be confronted by the unaesthetic spectacle of vast amounts of wobbly white flesh. At one time such sights were thankfully confined to beaches and holiday resorts, but now nearly naked bodies can be seen in every high street, supermarket and park.

The same women who, in the winter, would die of embarrassment if the milkman or postman caught them in their underwear, are now openly sunning themselves in tiny bikinis in all kinds of public places — lawns, roadsides, and outside pubs and restaurants. They are going shopping in skimpy black sun-tops and too-tight shorts. They are sitting in airports dressed as if they were already on the beach. They are going to work in backless see-through dresses with nothing underneath. Women who spend all winter staring in disgust at their acres of cellulite are now putting them on display.

It is not just women who fall prey to the urge to bare all. Men, too, are walking down high streets and drinking in pubs exposing their pallid chests and bulging beer bellies. It seems that every year our tolerance for bare flesh increases. At one time, anybody who walked down a public highway wearing a bra top and shorts would risk being cautioned for causing a public nuisance. Now, nobody says a word.

Why do we rush to reveal the flesh which, for most of the year, we are only too thankful to hide? It cannot be

because we want to get brown. The nearest thing most Anglo-Saxon skins will get to a tan during this current heatwave is redness, sunburn and peeling, which looks even worse, if possible, than lumpy white mottled flesh.

We can't be exposing ourselves because our bare flesh looks good. The merest glance in the mirror would confirm the opposite. And it's not as if the vast majority of us have spent the cold months honing and polishing our bodies. And we certainly can't be baring almost all because it's more comfortable that way. Quite the reverse. There can be few things more painful than sunburnt flesh sticking to hot, plastic seats. The strong midday sun on a bare back will result only in painful and possibly dangerous sunburn, especially for skin that is not used to such exposure.

Nor can we be stripping off in order to keep cool. The best way to stay cool in a heatwave is to wear a sun hat and very loose, light, cotton clothes. The most popular garments — if one can call them that — worn by the British in a heatwave seem to be tiny bands of black nylon or Lycra, fabrics which maximise sweatiness and discomfort.

The only possible explanation for the exposure, as I see it, must be that the hot sun acts as a mood-altering drug on Anglo-Saxon brains, changing our perception to the extent that we no longer see ourselves as others see us, or as we really are. In our heat-crazed fantasy, we imagine we are slim, sensuous, bronzed nymphs, or hand-some, muscle-bound hunks.

While I cannot wish for this present hot weather to end, I would appreciate not having so much flesh so unadvisedly displayed.

LIZ HODGKINSON

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Jo Richardson currently holds the shadow post — backed up by a "small but effective department" with its own staff and spending power.

Labour, which has studied similar ministries in France, New Zealand and Australia, would also create a network of regional offices to give women access at local level. It places tougher laws on sex discrimination and equal pay among its legislative priorities, plus action on childcare, employment rights and community support for carers.

Although Ms Richardson has been active in issues of particular interest to women, among them the abortion and embryo research debates and, most recently, the suggested legislation for warnings on tampon packets in the wake of the toxic shock syndrome scare, her role to date has been spent entirely in Opposition. Labour's plan remains as yet untested.

There are those, of course, to whom the whole idea of special ministerial groups for women or a minister for women is anathema. But even feminists are divided: many believe that whatever the motive, it still marginalises women's concerns.

Ms Doonan does not agree. "I don't think it is demeaning. You must have someone with the commitment and expertise who can monitor and evaluate what is being done."

"I think a minister is better than a ministerial group because, although she would still have to fight for her budget with every other department, she would have more status and impact. In the end, though, you are only as strong as your money and resources, and a lot of changes will need money."

"It may be that demographic shifts and the economy will force changes. The trouble with leaving it to those forces is that, when you get a recession, women's gains tend to disappear."

LIZ GILL

## Who should minister to women's needs?

In her government reshuffle this week Mrs Thatcher gave

Angela Rumbold the job of championing women's issues.

Without proper resources, is it any more than a gesture?



Shared goal, different views: Angela Rumbold (left), John Patten, Jo Richardson

to be placed in public appointments and urged women themselves to come forward.

In April 1989 it announced a five-point plan to improve childcare provision, including amendments to the Children Bill to modernise local authority registration procedures for childcare facilities, instituting annual inspections and revoking registration where necessary (the amendments were accepted); a Home Office scheme to advise on quality and standards of private nurseries (this is in force); encouraging the use of school premises for after-school and holiday play schemes (the take-up rate is not yet collated); financial support for some voluntary sector

childcare schemes (in force); and urging employers to use various tax reliefs available to set up workplace nurseries (take-up rate not yet assessed).

The group's other main concern has been in the field of domestic violence, and new guidelines to the police on how to tackle the problem will be issued next week. It has also set in motion legal studies to examine how criminal and civil law might be improved in this area, and funded local initiatives under the "Safer Cities" scheme.

A Home Office spokesman says: "Projects are financed through the department concerned. The purpose of the group is to bring together the various strands of government

and to be able to look at the issues affecting women as a whole." Despite these advances the group retains a relatively low profile, a reflection, perhaps, of the unease among Conservatives over the whole notion of "women's issues". The unease is partly philosophical (many believe that the role of women is not a matter for legislation or state intervention), and partly practical. Some observers believe attempts to go further would founder on the rocks of Mrs Thatcher's fears of a "creche society".

The Labour Opposition maintains that ministerial groups are ultimately ineffective. They propose a women's minister with cabinet status —

## To see ourselves as others would see us



BARBARA AMIEL

DO YOU remember the marvellous Julie Christie film, *Darling*? In preparation for my summer reading I purchased the Penguin edition of Anton Chekhov's short stories and, unable to wait for the beach, turned to re-read the short story on which that film was based. The thought is demeaning. I know, but I've always worried that I may come perilously close to resembling Chekhov's "The Darling".

The heroine, Olga, is widowed twice and has one love affair. What intrigues Chekhov is how passionately Olga assumes both the ideas and the ambience of the men she loves. The first husband, Kukin, runs an outdoor theatre in the Tivoli amusement park. Soon Chekhov tells us, "Olga was telling friends that the theatre was the most remarkable, the most important and the most necessary thing in the world, and that it was only in the theatre that one could obtain true enjoyment and become truly educated and humane".

Kukin dies suddenly and the next husband is the manager of a timber yard. Now it seems to Olga that, "the most important and necessary thing in life was timber; and there was something dearly familiar and touching to her in the sound of the words beam, block, board, balk, plank, slat, scantling, batten, slab...". Soon both Olga and her husband smell of gentility and the unctuous sulphur soap of the local baths. "Oh, we're very happy, thank God," Olga would say to her acquaintances. "God grants everyone such a life!"

Well, yes. I suppose all women assume, to some extent, certain of their menfolk's values, or else keep very quiet. This after all, is what pair-bonding is about. In my case, it takes a slightly different turn, though no less thorough. I seem utterly impermeable to the influence of gentlemen companions in the realm of ideas, but putty when it comes to their views on my appearance.

"I adore blondes," a man I responded enormously told me, and later that day, after a perfectly agonising time at Sak's Fifth Avenue beauty salon in New York, I emerged from the hairdresser with waist-length blonde hair. The sole benefit of that experience was to discover that every word I said was now considered by le tout monde to be much cleverer than before. No one expects much of women with waist-length blonde hair, and the simple ability to construct a sentence with subject, verb and predicate is greeted with awe.

What followed was predictable. "You simply are too colonial and dreary in your wardrobe," said a male friend whose thoughts on Goethe struck me as brilliant, and by the end of the same week I had given the beige, brown and grey suits to a second-hand shop and could be seen poking about looking at spangled

can't bear the idea of listening to people discuss chocolate biscuits in terms of an addiction. There is nothing wrong about chocolate or spiritual about lettuce. The words are out of place in that context. But the thought that I might enjoy cream and butter rather than yoghurt and skimmed milk seems to shock my contemporary friends in about the same way a religious heresy could shake a medieval theologian.

I'm tempted to remind such people, including the Edwina Curries of our lives, that they are simply in the grip of a fashion, just as their forbears were. Medical science in the Victorian era, after all, considered self-abuse to be not only a sure sign of moral insanity but the basic cause of most physical ailments, just as, today, caffeine and cholesterol are singled out.

These ideas may not be entirely wrong in either example, but I am increasingly convinced that the fervour with which they are advanced has less to do with science than with fashion.

Obviously, the time has come to return to Rubenesque ideals, when being soft and flabby indicated wealth and accomplishment and was a sure sign that one had servants to do most of the chores and leisure time to spare. Human beings are created in many different shapes, and mine seems to be one without calf muscles or biceps. After a month of trying, I simply cannot imagine that it is either healthy or the will of the Creator that I should change my outline. It is perfectly true that exercise occasionally gives me a euphoric feeling (generally when, like writing, it is finished), which I am told is the result of sustained physical exertion releasing certain chemicals in my brain. This may well be considerably cheaper than the chemical highs purchased by more conventional addicts. But coming down from exercising is extremely depressing. As my trainer sadly remarked, after I failed to appear at his machines for two weeks: "You lose that tone really fast if you skip your workouts."

At the bottom of all this lunacy must be the age-old female fear of losing one's looks and, of course, of old age and death. These are legitimate fears, but I suspect they must be faced sooner rather than later. We do seem to be the first generation hellbent on dying in perfectly good health, and while that may not be a bad approach to mortality, it does tend to abstract one from the very real need to deal with the spiritual consequences of decline and decay.

Which is why I shall go on holiday next week and do nothing more energetic than turn the pages of Chekhov's stories, remarking once again on how his laborious act of putting pen to paper gives one more strength and insight into dealing with the inevitable than all the health clubs of the world.

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## ARTS

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BOB GANNON

# Waking up Albert, the sleeping giant

Patrick Deuchar, chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall, reveals to Simon Tait his plans to transform the commercial fortunes of the Kensington landmark

**W**ithout any of the usual fanfare, the Royal Albert Hall is giving itself a massive facelift. For years, London's largest performing space has been a sleeping giant, and an increasingly shabby one, which has slumbered through a turnover of about £3 million a year. But under its new supremo, the grand old lady of Victorian concert halls is waking up to the commercial potential of the late 20th century.

"Properly awake, it could be turning over at least £10 million — I will stop at £10 million for now, but who knows?" says Patrick Deuchar, the hall's chief executive for the last 12 months. It is the first time he has revealed his ambitious plans for the 5,000-seat auditorium. These include spending £1 million a year for at least the next five years on 'giving the place an impetus'.

Over the last few years, the Albert Hall has undergone a few changes, discovering itself to be "multi-use" and bringing in conventions and tennis tournaments to improve income. But it is absurd, says Deuchar — a former journalist, PR man, promoter and customer of the Albert Hall — for it to be open only between 6.15 and 10.30 in the evening. "It is a remarkable structure. It has the ability to embrace every single event, from the Proms to sumo wrestling, and make it feel good. But you have to get the user on your side, and that's my priority."

The box office has become the £250,000 "ticket shop" with a new telephone system — 30 lines instead of

10 and the option of another 40 if needed, in a crusade to make touts obsolete — and a back-up of 35 marketing staff under the new marketing controller, Karen Booth, recruited from the Science Museum. The six bars — woefully inadequate monuments to Victorian abstinence — have had £350,000 spent on them; backstage facilities are being installed for promoters, complete with photocopies and faxes; artists' facilities are to be tackled next year; there is to be a new restaurant and, for the Promenaders currently queuing round the hall, there are ice-cream parlours, temporary bars and snack points for the first time. And, to dwell on basics for a moment, the new toilets were finished just in time for this year's Proms, at a cost of £1 million. Moreover, the acousticians have been called in to find out whether new technology can improve on those famous 1960s "flying saucers" (the 135 glass-fibre diffuser discs hung from the ceiling in the bid to keep the famous Albert Hall echo at bay); and tenders are out for the job of refurbishing the auditorium and restoring its Victorian splendour.

With refreshing candour, Deuchar admits he has little idea of the final pricing. "It could cost £5 million, it could cost £25 million... £125 million — I don't know. But we will know by autumn next year what has to be done, and then think about how to pay for it." But his £1 million a year will come from the hall's own income.

Deuchar's ambitions for the old place are unlimited. He wants to bring back the

famous "great floor", finally lost in 1984 through abuse and neglect, to mount exhibitions which the hall has not had in its post-war life, more sport, balls and banquets, even a circus perhaps — provided there are no animals (the original Royal Charter for the hall forbids "animals and fishes" except for guide dogs).

"I don't think it's any secret that we're talking to Jeremy Isaacs about providing space for the Royal Opera between 1993 and 1996, when the Opera House is closed." Although the Albert Hall gave the English National Ballet space for its 40th-anniversary gala earlier this year, regular ballet could not seriously be considered in the foreseeable future (no fly-tower, no wings).

The Royal Albert Hall was one of the beneficiaries of the Great Exhibition of 1851, along with the rest of the institutions on the South Kensington estate created by Prince Albert and Henry Cole out of the exhibition profits. The money to build it was partly raised by selling seats (seats held by seat-holders form the ruling corporation of the hall), the building was designed by Captain Francis Fowke and General Henry Scott (architects of the original V&A), and in 1867 the grieving Queen Victoria, under "enormous emotional stress", completed its name by adding "Royal Albert" to "Hall of Arts and Sciences".

She inspected it three years later and made her only recorded comment on the place: "It looks like the British constitution." But she was too overcome to speak the words at the opening in 1871 and the

acoustics were blamed for her silence.

Prince of Wales had to step forward to announce that "the Queen declares this hall now open".

It had balls, including the Chelsea Arts Ball for many years, art exhibitions and concerts. When, in the 1890s, electric light was installed, a seat-holder was sufficiently appalled to write to *The Times* complaining about "a very ghastly and unpleasant innovation". Later, the Ford Motor Company had its motor shown there. When the Queen's Hall was bombed in 1941, the Proms made the Albert Hall their permanent home.

For the centenary, in 1971, an appeal



Patrick Deuchar beneath a portrait of Promenade Concerts founder Sir Henry Wood, on an Albert Hall staircase

houses and don't want to come back".

The only merchandise available for purchase at the moment is a postcard, but the old giant is preparing to be host to record shops, bookshops, leisure-wear shops, leather-goods shops and foyer entertainers. "This place was treated like a monument, not given enough impetus to show us its potential. Too many things were considered impossible to do. We've found out that they were possible, just difficult. We'll listen to any promoter's ideas. We have a duty not only to return the Albert Hall to its previous grandeur, but also to bring it to life."

## MUSIC: BELVEDERE VOCAL COMPETITION, VIENNA

## Tenor (if not the baritone) of our time

John Higgins, who was one of the judges in Vienna at the annual contest for operatic singers, reports that this year's entries reflected the political changes in Eastern Europe

In the middle of July there is a short break in the operatic calendar. For most theatres the season is over and the front doors closed, unless of course they are playing host to an itinerant ballet company. The two big festivals of the year, Salzburg and Bayreuth, are yet to begin. General administrators, if they are lucky, find themselves with a few days on their hands.

For such reasons, Vienna chooses this time of year for its annual vocal competition, called the Belvedere and held under the wing of the Chamber Opera. Around 300 professional singers arrive in the city to be weeded down to a dozen finalists. The immediate financial reward of the first prize is quite modest, around £2,500, with three immediate concerts for the winner. Far more important, though, is the lure of possible future employment.

The main jury is composed entirely of opera house directors, or their deputies, who come from as far afield as Vancouver and Moscow. Many of them sit with contracts in their pockets, so singers who fail to pick up the £2,500 at least have a fair chance of winning one of the two dozen or so individual prizes awarded, provided, of course, they leap the hurdle of the preliminary rounds.

This year's entry for the Belvedere had a very different look, thanks to the political upheavals in eastern Europe. In 1989 only two Soviets competed, both Lithuanians; this time the Soviet team numbered 35. A further 32 singers came from Romania and provided by far the strongest national entry on the evidence of

the final rounds. The pattern of opera is changing fast.

For the first time there was an International Media Prize, with the judges drawn from west European critics, *The Times* representing Britain. There was strict segregation from the administrators in the hope that the Press would come up with a totally different winner. True to form — for when have critics ever agreed with the casting at their local opera house? — they obliged. After some

hasty and muddled voting, the Media Prize went to a brawny, bearded Norwegian coming up to 35, the bass-baritone, Ronni Johansen: a solid performer with a massive voice but one without much subtlety.

Afterwards the intendants mulled primarily that the Press had got it wrong yet again. Their own selection was another baritone, this time from Poland, Wojciech Drabowicz. He was one of the youngest competitors at 24, very

poised on stage and with a smoothness of delivery that would suggest a career in the *bel canto* roles, "Bella siccione un angelo" (*Don Pasquale*) was a wise choice for one of his arias.

Both juries in their first prizes missed the most interesting singer of the competition, a young Romanian, Angela Gheorghiu, although a number of those among the media were rooting for her. Her long oval face and dark ringlets made her natural casting for *Violetta* and her account of "Addio del passato" from *Traviata* was easily the most compulsive piece of singing in the final round, although in the semi-finals she had been no more than adequate. From Cotrubas onwards, Romania has known how to turn out *Violettas*. A number of intendants were taking note of her and quite rightly fishing out their contracts: she will be heard in recital at the Wexford Festival later in the year.

On semi-final night, the public was allowed its own choice, though with no prize money attached. It went to a well-coached American soprano, Mary Paul, who looked to be set for further honours until she made the fatal mistake of singing only half of Zerbinetta's aria (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) and forfeited all her support. The last round is the one everyone has to get right.

In this final round, with only 12 singers left, there was no representative from the five countries which might claim a little operatic tradition between them: Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Austria itself. Yes, the face of opera is changing.

Young winner: Wojciech Drabowicz, a baritone from Poland

## FESTIVAL: STORYTELLING IN BIRMINGHAM

## Tall or short, there is something for all

Duncan Williamson says: "On a cold winter's night, when the wind blew through the forest, my travellers family of 16 huddled together and began a story." That may sound like the opening line of an old folk tale but it is not. It is his true life story. He was born in a tent on the shores of Loch Fyne and spent the next 40 years as a traveller, working with peat cutters, farmers and fishermen. These days he tours the United States with a collection of 3,000 tales and his second wife, an American post-graduate in folklore.

He will be telling some of those stories over this weekend at the first Birmingham Storytelling Festival, a three-day celebration of stories from every continent, told with music and dance. The event will feature trickster and wonder tales, west African "Ananse" and Indian epic tales, plus stories with Celtic and Norse traditions.

Until recently, with the influence of our hi-tech world of satellite, cable and compact disc, storytelling, the oldest form of entertainment and communication, was thought to have been buried by the Vikings.

"In England, storytelling was killed by the Industrial Revolution and the arrival of literacy," explains Ben Haggerty, founder member of the Company of Storytellers and festival consultant. Marion Oughton, a former primary school teacher, says: "Now we think of storytelling as

sitting comfortably? Nicola Murphy wants to tell you about an event this weekend

something which is connected with children only."

"We're so sophisticated this side of the world, or we think we are. People sit in academic and analyse concepts, and other people's work. But storytelling is about getting down to basics," says Jan Blake, an actress and television scriptwriter who tells Jamaican tales.

In Jamaica, the storyteller and poet Louise Bennett is well respected — "Miss Lou Days" are public holidays. "In India, all women are natural storytellers," explains Vayu Naidoo, who is at Leeds University to complete a PhD in the subject. She says: "Mythologies within mythologies are passed on as a grandmother braids a little girl's hair." In Guyana, Marc Matthews has been a professional storyteller for more than 20 years.

In fact, storytelling has reappeared in this country over the past decade. In 1979, in the first Lambeth Council initiative of its kind, Helen East, who was born in Sri Lanka and brought up in Norway, told stories on the streets of Brixton.

Haggerty says: "In 1981, there was a dawning of multi-cultural education which provided the economic base for storytellers in schools." That autumn, the professional companies, Common Lore and the Company of Story-

tellers, began work. Now more and more storytellers are appearing, each with a story to tell.

"Storytelling lies between folk, literature and drama," says Haggerty, who has a theatrical background. "People come from each of these worlds."

Five years ago, Taffy Thomas was known as one of the "Fabulous Salami Brothers", who performed feats of strength, skill and stupidity. But he had a stroke and was left partially paralysed. "The doctor said that eating fire and dancing on broken glass was not the way forward," Thomas explains.

Now the Gateshead Garden Festival storyteller in residence, he rides an ice-cream tricycle that converts into an armchair and tells "stories, tales and elaborate lies". He performs on Sunday with the Eldons from Yorkshire — champion clog-dancer Lynette and folk singer/musician Jim. He tells yarns heard from fishermen in Flamborough, on Humberside, from old characters of the East Riding and from gypsies.

"There's nothing more exciting than telling stories," says Jan Blake. "You're a barometer for your audience, you push them and yourself, conjuring up images and expressing yourself creatively through stories. You just can't stop." So addictive are the magical words — "once upon a time," —

that schoolteachers have left their pupils and academics have deserted their research.

"Stories address fundamental questions such as matters of life, death and existence that are often ducked and dodged," says Haggerty.

The singer and songwriter Claudette Donney sets her African-trickster stories of the mythical west African spiderman in a Yorkshire context. Jan Blake tells *The Three Little Pigs* in Jamaican Creole.

"There's a story for everything, for every shepherd and every crofter," says Williamson. "For every mouse and frog, for the stones in the path and the tree in the field." And the same story is told throughout the world — with a local hero called Jack, Ivan or Hose, and with a trickster known as the Devil, Ananse or Opaal Bhar.

Haggerty says: "Stories are for everyone. Critics and academics may be snobbish about storytelling, but nothing will stop the new and the growing interest in them."

• The Birmingham Storytelling Festival runs from today until Sunday. Storytelling (in tents) takes place on Saturday and Sunday from 1pm-6pm in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston. The other sessions are held at the Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, tonight at 7.30pm; on Saturday at 2.30pm, 6pm and 7.30pm, and on Sunday at 6pm and 7.30pm. Bookings can be made on 021 440 3838.

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# A very modern nightmare

## THEATRE

**Richard III**  
Lyttelton

**SUPPOSE** Oswald Mosley had wangled his way to supreme power in the 1930s. Better still, imagine that some unscrupulous relative of Edward VIII had used the Simpson crisis to make himself a combination of King, king and deity. Clearly this production of *Richard III*, which asks us to suppose and imagine such things, is not likely to appeal to those wanting a late-medieval history lesson, an example of Tudor propaganda, or anything straightforward in period.

Others may find themselves succumbing to its undeniable if unattractive grim. It is a very modern nightmare Richard Eyre has staged and a very British coup fan McKellen's Richard assays. For a while, it seems that those morning and evening suits, those top hats and medals, could belong in the corridors, anterooms and councils of power anywhere in early 20th-century Europe. Yet is that not Big Ben, boozing out the time for Lord Hastings? And aren't those guards officers in red? Indeed, don't those accompanying Edward IV in his wheelchair look remarkably like Queen Mary and Neville Chamberlain?

Moreover, there is no missing the Sandhurst accent McKellen adopts. He comes stiffly across the bare stage in his general's uniform and talks of "wintab" and "majesta" in a blend of drawl and blimpish staccato. It is one of our very own mandarins who, in a chilling *coup de théâtre*, casts aside his khaki for a black uniform, a St George's cross armband and a shadowy retinue of thugs. Suddenly

he is high on a podium, his good arm ready to rise in ritual salute, accepting the throne in cadence, clearly meant to remind us of Edward VIII's abdication speech.

This is mischievous, provocative but also stimulating stuff. However just or unjust its implied attack on the British upper classes, our own era can hardly dismiss Shakespeare's case-study of the making of a tyrant. We know all about the play-acting, the chicanery, the orchestrated applause, the trumped-up accusations, the cynically justified arrests and executions. Nowadays, too, death-warrants have been drawn up before any crime has been committed, as happens to Hastings, and men have bawled, like Richard, that "Conscience is but a word that cowards use to keep the strong in thrall."

Yet of course there is loss. A fascist setting – complete, at one bizarre point, with a tapestry of a vast, heretically nude McKellen – fits oddly with a world that sets such store by curses, oaths, witchcraft, cavalry battles and other medieval matters. More to the point, it traps McKellen the actor, and prevents him exploring Richard as thoroughly as he did the steely, ravenous Macbeth he presented in the 1970s or the dry, cold lago he concocted last year.

For much of the play we are mainly aware of McKellen's military and aristocratic mask: of a fastidious exterior that conceals much and reveals little. It is hard to discern interesting truths beneath the superficial mannerisms. True, there are hints of something deeper: a burst of anger when little York jumps on to his bad shoulder, a moment of regret when his awesome aloof mother refuses his request for a blessing. Is this Richard punishing the world for childhood rejection? Or com-

these mysteries, even as iniquitous as once every three years.

Once they were performed annually on the feast of Corpus Christi, from the upper storey of two-tier wagons trundled through the streets. However, only two of the original ten plays in the Coventry Cycle survived the collapse of interest during the reign of Elizabeth, leaving the story of Jesus stranded at the disputation in the temple. He is then only 12 years old which means episodes from the four other mystery cycles have had to be tacked on to round off the story.

A more serious discouragement to enjoyment stems from the thinly drawn characters and not too bad performances?

Perhaps proper rehearsal of the recent pieces meant that there had been insufficient time to prepare the older ones, but that cannot excuse or explain the lack of spontaneous fire in Davis's performance of Beethoven's Second Symphony – hardly an unispired piece – or Downes's clumsy manner in the torrential trauma that Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. In that piece, the brass was invariably coarse-sounding, and many crucial touches of woodwind were insensitive.

Thanks in part to two soloists who on this evidence seemed ill-chosen, for all their high répétit, the concertos each evening fared just as badly. In Davis's concert, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, despite a lovely sound, seemed to resist rather than embrace the ethos of Elgar's Violin Concerto, while Angela Hewitt seemed to find Schumann's Piano Concerto as unstimulating as Downes evidently did. It all was, grit to the mill of those misguided souls who think that serious music needs rescuing from mediocrities through bizarre presentation or some impossible marriage with rock.

Fortunately, the two newer pieces demonstrated that it is perfectly possible for a composer



British coup: Ian McKellen (left) in the title role of *Richard III*

to please the ear and stimulate intellect and soul without resort to compromise. The BBCSO's offering, and one of this year's specially commissioned works, was Anthony Payne's ambitious and powerful *Time's Arrow*, which attempts to convey the idea of the Big Bang: an explosion, an expansion, a contraction, another explosion. Thus the central section of the piece is a longish passage of slow music, the danger point as far as the work's impetus is concerned. But Payne, using carefully calculated proportions, handles his form with unerring confidence. He is unashamed of writing sounds simply for immediate dramatic purpose, though he never quite stays into that territory where he could be charged with writing naive sound effects.

David Matthews' *Chaconne*, another structure of symphonic proportions which was first performed by the BBCPO in 1988, by contrast reflects the too easily forgotten realities of medieval conflict, specifically that in the Wars of the Roses. There are many imaginative and powerful sounds – the ending, with solos for viola and violin, is particularly exquisite – but the prevailing feeling is of the bleakness of slaughter and the inexorable march of the war machine.

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more from the great McKellen. Why for instance is his Richard less than credible when he emerges from his pre-battle dreams bent, bunched, shuffling forward, querulously groaning out his fears? Is it Shakespeare's fault, or his, that this most inner of all his moments seems so unmotivated, so unprepared?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

providing opportunities gratefully seized by the two directors in this multi-cultural production. An Indian Mary (Sakuntala Ramanan) is greeted by a Nigerian Gabriel (Bella Enahoro), bestowing upon her an intense gaze and seraphic smile while soaring above the audience on a forklift truck.

Joe Spear, a shepherd and a king

on earth, continues to produce a vocally energetic work as John the Baptist and a worm-chewed Lazarus, but the text has by this stage ceased to tell its story persuasively and the musical inserts, mostly in an appropriate Gospel rhythm, provide increasingly welcome moments of vigour.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The small matter of two operas and an oratorio apart, this year's Proms ignore the revolution that has seen the use of period-style instruments and techniques in the playing of baroque and classical music. One would not go as far as to suggest that a counter-revolution has been set in motion, but the fact that the late concert on Monday was given by *Il Vizioso di Roma* rather than *The English Concert* or such some ensemble is cause for at least a raised eyebrow. But this small, well established group play with solid commitment and refined gestures, though here the homogeneity of their sound tended to erode the individuality of what was actually a well-varied selection of concertos by Corelli, Albinoni, Vivaldi and Tartini and Boccherini. There were moments when even the most hardened of stylistic dogmatists would have found it difficult to resist them – the middle movement of Albinoni's Oboe Concerto, Op 9 No 2, for instance, the ear with a shapely line, or the mellifluous elegance of Rocco Filippi's cello in Boccherini's Cello Concerto No 6 in D. What is more, the ardent devotion of the playing was an object lesson.

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## THEATRE

**Coventry Mysteries**  
Old Cathedral,  
Coventry

THE setting is imposing, enclosed in the wide rectangle of the nave and choir within the pink sandstone walls of the ruined cathedral. Spires and finials point into the sky, and the carvings on what remains of the tower become increasingly lurid as the sun sets.

Architectural delights apart, however, it is not clear what purpose is served by the revival of

## PHONOS

**BBCSO/Davis**  
**BBCPO/Downes**  
Albert Hall

TWO services which the Proms traditionally provide each year are of particular value to the music-loving community. New, or nearly new, music always features relatively prominently in the programmes; and new audiences are catered for by being introduced to the cornerstones of the classical and romantic orchestral repertoire.

After the pair of concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday, one given by Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the other by Edward Downes and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, it is easy enough to enthuse over each orchestra's championship of new and recent pieces by Anthony Payne and David Matthews. Any recent initiate to live music-making, however, should be hastily assured that the standard classics are not always played with the dullness and, sometimes, sheer ineptitude with which they were digested here. Needless to say, the Promenaders' enthusiasm remained undaunted. Why do they

not boo bad performances?

Perhaps proper rehearsal of the recent pieces meant that there had been insufficient time to prepare the older ones, but that cannot excuse or explain the lack of spontaneous fire in Davis's performance of Beethoven's Second Symphony – hardly an unispired piece – or Downes's clumsy manner in the torrential trauma that Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

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**WORD-WATCHING**  
*Answers from page 22*  
**GORMAN**  
(b) The *Gormans* Controversy of 1848 arose out of the refusal of the Bishop of Exeter to insist on the Rev. G. C. Gormans to the living of Bradford Speke, because he held unorthodox views on the doctrine of baptism". After two years controversy the Privy Council decided in favour of Mr Gormans.

**PICARDS**

(a) An extremist early 15th-century sect prevalent in Bohemia and the Vandals, said to be so called from Picard of Flanders, their leader, who called himself the New Jerusalem and tried to introduce the customs of living in the mode. They were suppressed by Ziska in 1421.

**KHAMI ELECTION**

(a) The name given to the General Election of 1900, by which the Conservatives sought to profit from the recent military victories in the South African War. It was promoted by Joseph Chamberlain, and the Conservatives won, just.

**THE NOTABLES**

(a) An assembly of persons of distinction and political weight summoned by the Valois kings instead of convening the States General.

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene,  
Chess Correspondent



Today's position is from the game Friar (White) – de Vista (Black), Catanzaro 1979. White to play and win. Solution tomorrow's *Times*.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1. Cxb6! 1xb6 2. Rxf7 1xf7 3. Rxf6 4. Rxf6 5. Rxf6 6. Rxf6 7. Rxf6 8. Rxf6 9. Rxf6 10. Rxf6 11. Rxf6 12. Rxf6 13. Rxf6 14. Rxf6 15. Rxf6 16. Rxf6 17. Rxf6 18. Rxf6 19. Rxf6 20. Rxf6 21. Rxf6 22. Rxf6 23. Rxf6 24. Rxf6 25. Rxf6 26. Rxf6 27. Rxf6 28. Rxf6 29. Rxf6 30. Rxf6 31. Rxf6 32. Rxf6 33. Rxf6 34. Rxf6 35. Rxf6 36. Rxf6 37. Rxf6 38. Rxf6 39. Rxf6 40. Rxf6 41. Rxf6 42. Rxf6 43. Rxf6 44. Rxf6 45. Rxf6 46. Rxf6 47. Rxf6 48. Rxf6 49. Rxf6 50. Rxf6 51. Rxf6 52. Rxf6 53. Rxf6 54. Rxf6 55. Rxf6 56. Rxf6 57. Rxf6 58. Rxf6 59. Rxf6 60. Rxf6 61. Rxf6 62. Rxf6 63. Rxf6 64. Rxf6 65. Rxf6 66. Rxf6 67. Rxf6 68. Rxf6 69. Rxf6 70. Rxf6 71. Rxf6 72. Rxf6 73. Rxf6 74. Rxf6 75. Rxf6 76. Rxf6 77. Rxf6 78. Rxf6 79. Rxf6 80. Rxf6 81. Rxf6 82. Rxf6 83. Rxf6 84. Rxf6 85. Rxf6 86. Rxf6 87. Rxf6 88. Rxf6 89. Rxf6 90. Rxf6 91. Rxf6 92. Rxf6 93. Rxf6 94. Rxf6 95. Rxf6 96. Rxf6 97. Rxf6 98. Rxf6 99. Rxf6 100. Rxf6 101. Rxf6 102. Rxf6 103. Rxf6 104. Rxf6 105. Rxf6 106. Rxf6 107. Rxf6 108. Rxf6 109. Rxf6 110. Rxf6 111. Rxf6 112. Rxf6 113. Rxf6 114. Rxf6 115. Rxf6 116. Rxf6 117. Rxf6 118. Rxf6 119. Rxf6 120. Rxf6 121. Rxf6 122. Rxf6 123. Rxf6 124. Rxf6 125. Rxf6 126. Rxf6 127. Rxf6 128. Rxf6 129. Rxf6 130. Rxf6 131. Rxf6 132. Rxf6 133. Rxf6 134. Rxf6 135. Rxf6 136. Rxf6 137. Rxf6 138. Rxf6 139. Rxf6 140. Rxf6 141. Rxf6 142. Rxf6 143. Rxf6 144. Rxf6 145. Rxf6 146. Rxf6 147. Rxf6 148. Rxf6 149. Rxf6 150. Rxf6 151. Rxf6 152. Rxf6 153. Rxf6 154. Rxf6 155. Rxf6 156. Rxf6 157. Rxf6 158. Rxf6 159. Rxf6 160. Rxf6 161. Rxf6 162. Rxf6 163. Rxf6 164. Rxf6 165. Rxf6 166. Rxf6 167. Rxf6 168. Rxf6 169. Rxf6 170. Rxf6 171. Rxf6 172. Rxf6 173. Rxf6 174. Rxf6 175. Rxf6 176. Rxf6 177. Rxf6 178. Rxf6 179. Rxf6 180. Rxf6 181. Rxf6 182. Rxf6 183. Rxf6 184. Rxf6 185. Rxf6 186. Rxf6 187. Rxf6 188. Rxf6 189. Rxf6 190. Rxf6 191. Rxf6 192. Rxf6 193. Rxf6 194. Rxf6 195. Rxf6 196. Rxf6 197. Rxf6 198. Rxf6 199. Rxf6 200. Rxf6 201. Rxf6 202. Rxf6 203. Rxf6 204. Rxf6 205. Rxf6 206. Rxf6 207. Rxf6 208. Rxf6 209. Rxf6 210. Rxf6 211. Rxf6 212. Rxf6 213. Rxf6 214. Rxf6 215. Rxf6 216. Rxf6 217. Rxf6 218. Rxf6 219. Rxf6 220. Rxf6 221. Rxf6 222. Rxf6 223. Rxf6 224. Rxf6 225. Rxf6 226. Rxf6 227. Rxf6 228. Rxf6 229. Rxf6 230. Rxf6 231. Rxf6 232. Rxf6 233. Rxf6 234. Rxf6 235. Rxf6 236. Rxf6 237. Rxf6 238. Rxf6 239. Rxf6 240. Rxf6 241. Rxf6 242. Rxf6 243. Rxf6 244. Rxf6 245. Rxf6 246. Rxf6 247. Rxf6 248. Rxf6 249. Rxf6 250. Rxf6 251. Rxf6 252. Rxf6 253. Rxf6 254. Rxf6 255. Rxf6 256. Rxf6 257. Rxf6 258. Rxf6 259. Rxf6 260. Rxf6 261. Rxf6 262. Rxf6 263. Rxf6 264. Rxf6 265. Rxf6 266. Rxf6 267. Rxf6 268. Rxf6 269. Rxf6 270. Rxf6 271. Rxf6 272. Rxf6 273. Rxf6 274. Rxf6 275. Rxf6 276. Rxf6 277. Rxf6 278. Rxf6 279. Rxf6 280. Rxf6 281. Rxf6 282. Rxf6 283. Rxf6 284. Rxf6 285. Rxf6 286. Rxf6 287. Rxf6 288. Rxf6 289. Rxf6 290. Rxf6 291. Rxf6 292. Rxf6 293. Rxf6 294. Rxf6 295. Rxf6 296. Rxf6 297. Rxf6 298. Rxf6 299. Rxf6 300. Rxf6 301. Rxf6 302. Rxf6 303. Rxf6 304. Rxf6 305. Rxf6 306. Rxf6 307. Rxf6 308. Rxf6 309. Rxf6 310. Rxf6 311. Rxf6 312. Rxf6 313. Rxf6 314. Rxf6 315. Rxf6 316. Rxf6 317. Rxf6 318. Rxf6 319. Rxf6 320. Rxf6 321. Rxf6 322. Rxf6 323. Rxf6 324. Rxf6 325. Rxf6 326. Rxf6 327. Rxf6 328. Rxf6 329. Rxf6 33

## BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Jill Dando and Paul Burden 8.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather  
9.05 But First This... Children's entertainment beginning with *Bella and Sebastian*. Animated story of a boy's search for his mother (r) 9.25 *Horizon*: Tony Hall's innovative approach to TV (r) (Ceefax)  
10.00 News and weather followed by *Double Dare* (r) 10.30 *Playdays*  
10.55 Five to Eleven. Anne Wynn Wilson with another tale of the tapestry depicting the Quaker movement  
11.00 News and weather followed by *Our House*, American family drama series 11.55 *The Zone*, Music news and the chance to vote for your favourite video  
12.00 News and weather followed by *The Garden Party*. Sarah Magnusson looks back at the Special Olympics. Sally Jones presents a woman's view of sport and Richard Johnson cuts some new tracks with the Chimes 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 *Look, Stranger*: Jack's Eye View. A view of the world from the lofty vantage point of Dave Dawson and Pete Thompson, Somerset steeples  
2.15 Racing from Ascot. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the Heavestakes (2.30); the Virginia Water Maiden Stakes (3.00), and the Brown Jack Stakes (3.30). The 4.05 race is on BBC2



American conductor Andrew Litton (10.20pm)

3.45 Cartoons 4.10 *Paw Paws*, Carton adventures of baby bears (r) 4.35 *Gentle Ben*. Waddling adventures of an Everglades ranger's son with a bear as a pet (r) (Ceefax)  
4.55 *Meet the Farm*. The final episode of the children's drama serial (r) (Ceefax)  
5.35 Neighbours (r). Northern Ireland: *Sportswide* 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Mairi Stewart. Weather 6.30 *Regional News Magazines*. Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*  
7.00 *Wogan* with Jonathan Ross. Tonight's guests are actor Richard Harnett and comedy duo Mack and Jane. Music is provided by Balmoral  
7.30 *Film*: Once Upon a Texas Train. (1988) starring Willie Nelson, Angie Dickinson and Richard Widmark. A lighthearted, made-for-television western about an ageing bank robber and his gang who are on the run from an equally ancient posse led by a Texas Ranger with a score to settle. Directed by Burt Kennedy. (Ceefax)  
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather  
9.30 *The Paradise Club*: Bring on the Cavalry. Danny (Leslie Grantham) is arrested for a 10-year-old crime he did not commit but refuses to provide an alibi  
10.20 *Omnibus* at the Proms. • Purists will probably argue that orchestral concerts gain little by having the television cameras trained on them, with the constant shifts of focus and angle providing an unwanted distraction from the master in hand. Non-purists will retort that the music is not the only thing. The styles of

conductors and soloists, the excitement of an orchestra at full stretch, cannot be appreciated by the eye alone. The purists will stick to *Radio 3*, the purists will look forward to the final six BBC1 visits to the Proms. Tonight's concert was given on Saturday by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under its American conductor Andrew Litton, with the outstanding young South Korean pianist Ju Hee Suh as soloist. The programme is standard fare, the Liszt Piano Concerto No 2 and César Franck's Symphony in D minor, and the main interest is in the performers. In the interval feature Litton and Ju Hee Suh are interviewed by John Tusa  
11.35 *Four is the Magic* (1972) starring Barry Newman and John Karlsen. After having been accidentally killed in a plane crash, John Talbot launches an elaborate plot to seek vengeance on those responsible. Lots of surprises and good chess sequences with Newman well cast as the slightly loopy avenger. Directed by Michael Tuchner (Ceefax)  
1.15am *Weather*

## BBC 2

6.45 Open University: *Science: A Day in the Life*. Ends at 7.10  
8.00 News  
8.15 Westminster. Brian Curtis with yesterday's proceedings in Parliament  
9.00 *Mastermind* 1986. A quarter-final. The specialist subjects are firearms, Laurence Olivier, the first world war and Yugoslav history (r)  
9.30 Cricket: First Test. Richie Benaud with highlights of yesterday's first day's play in the game at Lord's between England and India (r)  
10.10 *Men in the USSR*. A 40 minutes programme about the impact and influence of McDonald's hamburgers in the Soviet Union. Despite its uncontroversial reputation in the West, for the Russians capitalist McDonald's is a symbol of hope for the future (r). (Ceefax)  
10.50 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis with live coverage of the opening session of the second day's play between England and India at Lord's  
1.05 *Weekend Outlook* (r) 1.10  
Motorcycle Man. Peter Williams with a look at the world of motorcyclists, and at the big racing event of the year, the sometimes fatal Isle of Man TT races 1.20 *Greenlawns* (r)  
1.35 Cricket: First Test and Racing from Ascot. Tony Lewis with more live coverage of the second day's play at Lord's; and, at 4.05 the EBF Sandwich Maiden Stakes from Ascot. Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50  
6.30 *Film*: *Cry Danger* (1951)  
• This unassuming film is a reminder of the remarkable switch in the careers of Dick Powell from the fresh-faced

song-and-dance man of *Thirties* musicals to the tough hero of 1940s thrillers. The key picture in the transition was *Murder My Sweet*, in which Powell was surprisingly good as Raymond Chandler's world-weary private eye. Philip Marlowe. *Cry Danger* is not quite in that league but it is a fair example of the unpretentious thrillers that Hollywood used to make so well before the genre was appropriated by television. The plot is one used many times before and since. Powell plays Rocky, who is not a boxer but a man just released from prison. He was framed and is out to gain revenge on the men who put him inside and clear the name of a friend who is still behind bars. Rhonda Fleming is the statutory dubious woman, who tries to warn Powell off. It is familiar material but debut director Robert Parrish handles it with pace and flair. Wales: *Beatrix* 7.20 Wales in Westminster  
7.45 *What the Papers Say* with Paul Foot of the *Daily Mirror* at Lord's. Ends at 12.30am

8.00 *The Roux Brothers: Poultry and Game*. The gently bickering restaurateurs Alain and Michel suggest ways of cooking duck, hare and poussin (r)  
8.30 *Gardeners' World*. Geoff Hamilton, Nigel Colborn and Pipa Greenwood with reports on a low-maintenance garden in Stratford-on-Avon, lavender, the sweet-smelling herb for edging and hedging, and the mail-order bug business – the breeding of predators and parasites which feed on greenfly, white fly and other pests  
9.00 *Film*: *The Jark* (1974). In its first starring role Steve Martin plays an innocent white man brought up by black sharecroppers and going out into the world to make, and then lose, a fortune. The plot is a satire on the great innocent character inventing a new machine, the "opti-grill" device for keeping chickens hot. As with Martin's *Aime*, it is a funny place, a bit manic and, for some tastes, too punny. The supporting cast includes Bernadette Peters and the Jewish comedian Jackie Mason, and the director as a frequent Martin collaborator, Carl Reiner  
10.30 *Newsnight* includes the second of Janet Treven's reports on vivisection  
11.15 *Weather*  
11.20 *World Equestrian Games* from Stockholm. Hugh Thomas previews the three-day event in which Britain has high hopes. Six world championships, an unprecedented number, are up for grabs, with showjumpers John Whitaker and Henderson Milton especially fancied  
11.55 Cricket: First Test. Richie Benaud with highlights of the second day's play at Lord's. Ends at 12.30am

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 5.00am *London Breakfast* 6.30 *Smart Money* 9.00 *Smart Business* 11.00 *The Radio 1 Roadshow* 12.30pm *Newsbeat* 12.45 *Gary Davies* 3.00 *Steve Wright in the Afternoon* 5.30 *News* 6.00 *Round Table* 7.30 *John Toshack's Big Bento* 10.00 *The Friday Show* 12.00-12.30am *The Ranting Mail* P

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am *Steve Madden* 6.30 *Circle* 7.30 *David Dimbleby* 9.30 *Just Judi* 10.00 *Chatterbox* 11.00 *Jimmy Young* 11.30 *Geoffrey* 12.00 *Roy Hudd* 2.00 *John Dunn* 7.00 *Music News* 8.45 *Easters* 9.00 *Letter to the Editor* 10.00 *Programme 12.30am Jazz Parade* 12.30 *Dinner at Six* 1.00-4.00 *Geoff Dwyer with Night Radio* MW as above except 5.45-7.00pm Sport and Classified Results

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST.  
6.00am News 6.00-24 Hours 6.30 *London* 6.55 *Weather* 7.00 *Newscast* 7.30 *Mendax* 8.00 *News* 8.09 *24 Hours* 8.30 *Summary and Friends* 8.30 *East* 9.00 *News* 9.05 *World News* 9.05 *Weather* 9.15 *Music Review* 9.30 *News* 10.00 *Review of the British Press* 10.15 *The World Today* 10.30 *Financial News* 10.30 *Sport Roundup* 10.45 *News* 11.00 *Weather* 11.15 *Focus on Earth* 11.30 *Met Magazine* 11.55 *Travel News* 12.00 *Newsbeat* 12.30pm *News about Britain* 12.45 *Music Review* 12.55 *News* 13.00 *Weather* 13.15 *Focus on Europe* 13.30 *News* 13.45 *Music Review* 13.55 *News* 14.00 *Weather* 14.15 *Focus on Africa* 14.30 *News* 14.45 *Focus on Asia* 14.55 *News* 15.00 *Weather* 15.15 *Focus on Latin America* 15.30 *News* 15.45 *Focus on Africa* 15.55 *News* 16.00 *Weather* 16.15 *Focus on Europe* 16.30 *News* 16.45 *Focus on Asia* 16.55 *News* 17.00 *Weather* 17.15 *Focus on Africa* 17.30 *News* 17.45 *Focus on Asia* 17.55 *News* 18.00 *Weather* 18.15 *Focus on Europe* 18.30 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# Free market is near, says Gorbachev

From REUTER IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev said yesterday that the Soviet Union could lay the foundations for a market economy in two years with Western help. Speaking at a joint news conference after talks with Giulio Andreotti, the visiting Italian prime minister, Mr Gorbachev said Western credits would help the importation of crucial raw materials and would develop the country's own free-market industrial potential.

"In these next two years, when we face especially difficult changes, we need this help," the Soviet leader said. "None the less, we hope that after two years thorough work we could introduce a strong market mechanism. Of course we still have a lot to do if we are to achieve this."

He said the Soviet food industry and light industry, producing consumer goods neglected under old-style communism, might soon show signs of improvement.

Signor Andreotti said the success of perestroika was vital for European security. The West must provide concrete help. He gave no details of co-operation agreements, but said the two sides had decided to confer in August about possible economic aid. Foreign ministers would then meet in October to discuss putting plans into action.

President Gorbachev said:

Soviet harvest, page 9

## New submarine may be scrapped

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a quieter and faster nuclear-powered submarine for the Royal Navy might now be in doubt because of the government's "options for change" cuts and renewed objections from the Treasury over the cost of such a programme.

Lord Chalfont, chairman of Vickers Shipbuilders, said yesterday he believed that the chance of building a new submarine, the SSN20, to replace the Trafalgar class, might have vanished. Although this was disputed by the Royal Navy yesterday, the future of the SSN20 appeared to rest in the hands of the Treasury.

Even before the announcement this week of a proposed cut in the submarine force from 27 to 16, the defence ministry and the Treasury had been involved in intense negotiations over the planned development of a new class of nuclear-powered submarine.

Complex decisions, page 2



Crowds gathering to watch the convoy of chemical weapons roll slowly through Claisens on its way to the Pacific

## US chemical arsenal on the move

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE first 3,500 of America's European arsenal of 102,000 deadly chemical artillery shells safely made the first part of their journey to eventual destruction on a Pacific atoll yesterday. Guarded by 1,200 police, the VX nerve gas was taken in a five-mile-long convoy from Claisens near Kaiserslautern to another US depot at the railhead 30 miles away at Miesau.

There it will wait in its airtight steel containers until the other shells, some containing Sarin, arrive. They will be loaded on trains which will take them 300 miles to Nordenham on the North

Sea for shipment on board two US Navy vessels to the Pacific.

The operation went off without a hitch. The first of 80 vehicles left Clausen at 8am as planned and the last arrived at Miesau two hours and 33 minutes later, only three minutes later than expected. The escort vehicles included two armoured lorries carrying sensors capable of detecting any leak instantly, but so confident were people along the route of the safety precautions that they turned out to watch the convoy roll slowly past.

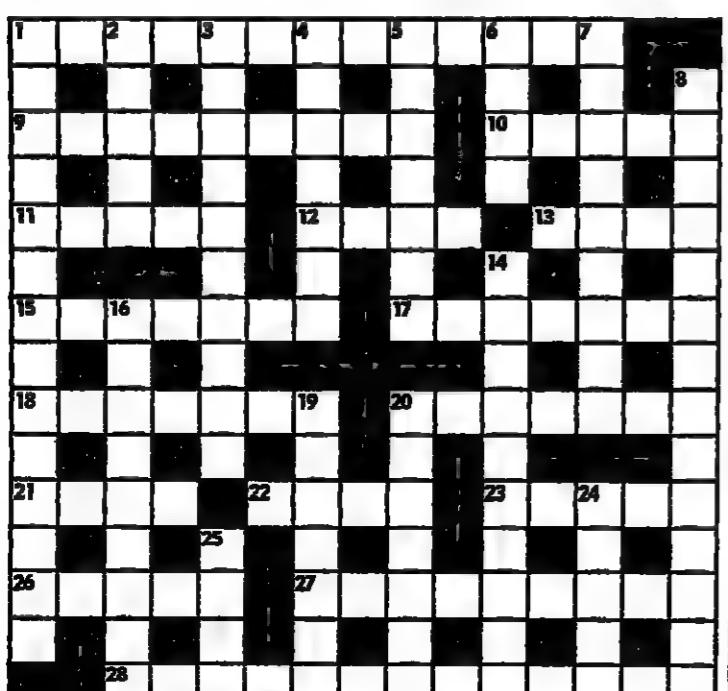
General Dennis Benchoff, who was in charge of the operation, said proudly afterwards: "I believe that a piece of

German history has been written today." Rudi Geil, the Rhineland-Palatinate interior minister, responsible for liaison between the American and West German authorities, said he was "a bit relieved" it had all gone off so well.

A last-minute legal attempt to stop the first transfer failed on Wednesday afternoon when the court in Miesau rejected an appeal against an earlier judgement in Cologne ruling that the convoy was safe. Frau Angelika Beer, security spokesman for the Greens, yesterday regretted the decision.

Johnston Atoll, page 9

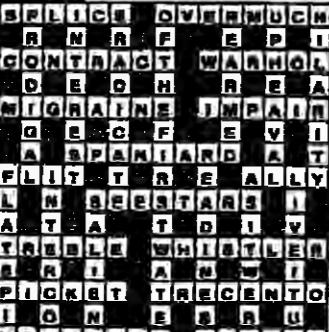
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,357



### ACROSS

- 1 Decline it is no different for artistic type (13).
- 2 Put on an expensive film (4-5).
- 10 About to perform again piece of church music (5).
- 11 President's study aid (5).
- 12 Fruit appears to lose freshness (4).
- 13 Conflict with maiden can become heated (4).
- 15 Avoid one on purpose (7).
- 17 There's a lot in report - I only use extract (7).
- 18 No partnership gets first all the time (3-4).
- 20 Irish quarter in European city (7).
- 21 Not a counterfeit coin (4).
- 22 Kiss for unromantic Miss (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,356



23 Pronouncements backing police force and army, once (5).

26 Stone dam unable to stop flow of water (5).

27 Jet flier (9).

28 Writer's a mug to put queen in play first (3,5).

1 Battle call that indicates one's plight (10,4).

2 President introduces a fast measure (5).

3 Speak at length about right to be resident abroad (10).

4 Deputy's grade reduced (5-2).

5 Minimal dance? (7).

6 Small island modern ruler doesn't need (4).

7 Medical type treats hip that's damaged (9).

8 Unexceptional choice of words associated with market (6,2,6).

14 Rulers with impressive fists (5,5).

16 Share somebody's burden, perhaps? (4,5).

19 Expert on pipes and piano to impose upon (7).

20 Lost girl is left inside (7).

24 Harmonize with hymn, say, in church (5).

25 Clothes one needs to change fairly often (4).

Concise Crossword, page 15

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard  
HISTORICALS

#### CORHAM

- 1 A Roundhead general
- 2 A religious controversy
- 3 The assassin of Spencer Perceval

#### PICARDS

- 1 French mercenaries
- 2 Professional outlaws
- 3 Hundred Years War battle

#### KHAKI ELECTION

- 1 British general election
- 2 Conscription
- 3 Army reorganisation

#### THE NOTABLES

- 1 French senators
- 2 Members of the Royal Society
- 3 The Royal Highlanders

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0833 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks C, London (within M25 & Circs), 731 M-ways/roads M4-M25 732 M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T, 733 M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734 M-ways/roads M25-M4 735 M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

North Ireland 745

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# Firms reject ASC plans to reform goodwill rule

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES have overwhelmingly rejected accounting reforms on the treatment of intangible assets, which would force them to capitalise brand names and other goodwill arising from takeovers and write them off year-by-year against profits.

After the final meeting of the Accounting Standards Committee, which issued the proposals, Michael Renshaw, its chairman, said the response was so powerful and the vote against amortization so strong that anyone would have to think hard before making it standard.

"There has to be a measure of agreement," he said. The issue, which now passes to the Accounting Standards Board, the ASC's more widely drawn successor, will not go away. Mr Renshaw said that although there was disagreement about writing off goodwill, there was a tendency to agree that the usual practice of eliminating acquisition goodwill by charging it straight to reserves could not continue.

An analysis of 53 responses to the ASC exposure draft showed little support for the goodwill proposals, although they are common practice abroad. Most support came from professional and academic accountants.

Many of the companies wanted to capitalise goodwill, but not necessarily treat it as a wasting asset that had to be amortized. Several leading companies have included ac-

quired brand names as permanent assets in their balance sheet. Mr Renshaw suggested that several big takeover bids for companies with few tangible assets might not have taken place if the ASC proposals had been in force.

There was also a sting in the tail of the ASC's final authoritative statement of standard accounting practice, approved and issued by the parent accountancy bodies, on an apparently innocuous revision of the 1974 standard on government grants.

On counsel's opinion, the revised standard says registered companies cannot deduct government grants from the value of an asset, even though it would give a true and fair view, because it is illegal under the Companies Act 1985. About half the companies involved have been using this simpler method and have theoretically been operating illegally.

"This will cause some aggravation and complaints, but it is not our fault," he said.

Further proposals to standardise accounting for quoted securities which had secured general agreement, also appear to be illegal unless changes are made to the Companies Act 1989, which put European Community directives into law.

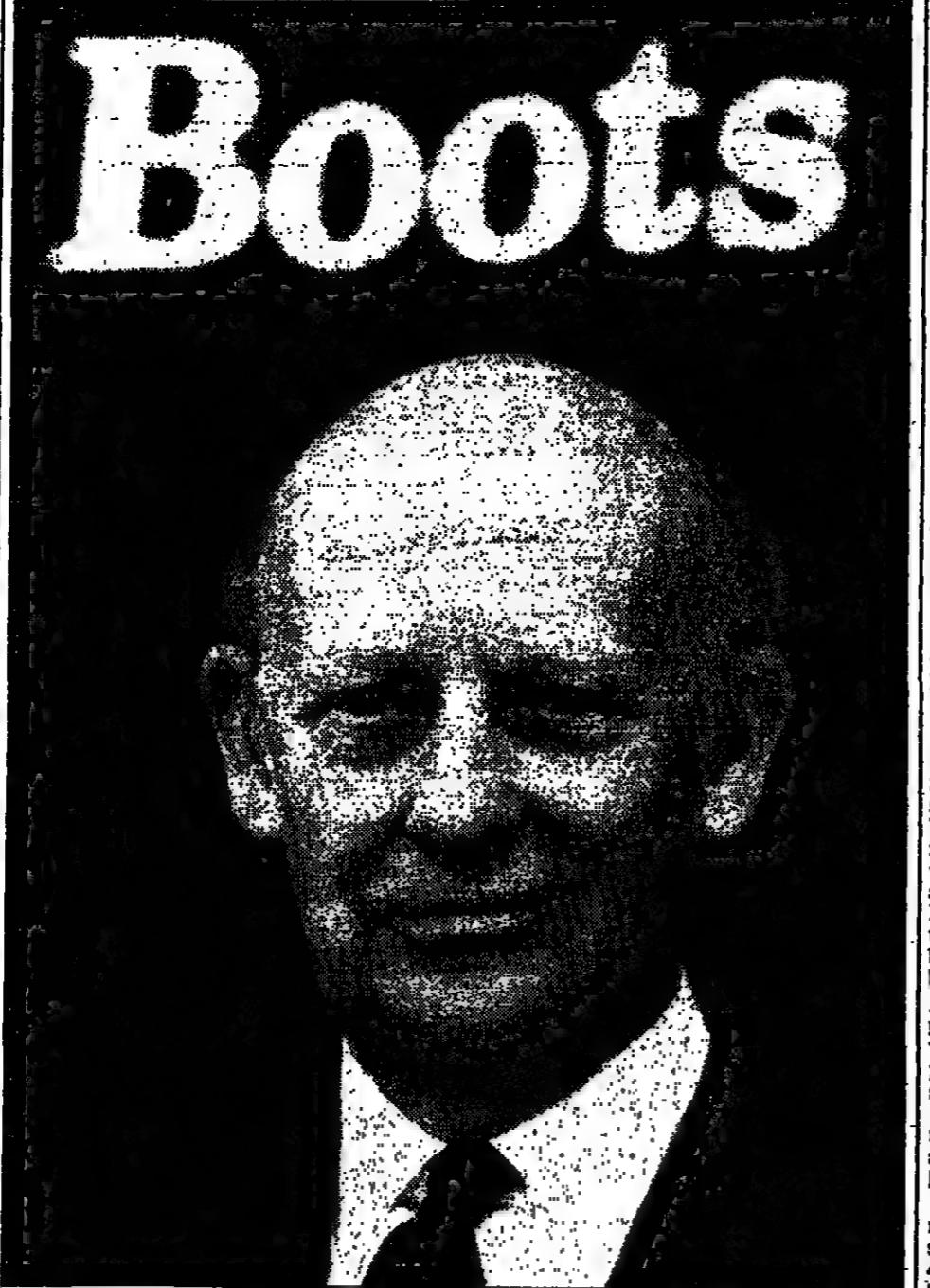
Mr Renshaw said this was an example of how the legal framework could impinge on professional standards of financial reporting. He predicted that, under the influence of continental traditions of statutory control, those setting accounting standards in future would find themselves increasingly impeded by the law.

"The ASC has changed the face of British financial reporting, mostly in non-controversial ways. You only have to look at the accounts of big companies before 1969 to see how different they are," said Mr Renshaw. "There has been a material advance in the art and understanding of financial reporting."

Mr Gunn told shareholders that Mr Birch had already received a £960,000 lump sum

Group opposes £4m contract claim

ADRIAN BROOKS



Robert Gunn at yesterday's annual meeting of Boots, his last as chairman

## Boots ready for fight

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ROBERT GUNN, the outgoing chairman of Boots, told the company's annual meeting yesterday that the group would be prepared to fight the ex-chairman of Ward White, Philip Birch, in court over his £4.7 million claim for breach of contract.

Mr Birch started a High Court suit against Boots a month ago, nearly a year after Boots acquired Ward White in a hostile £900 million takeover bid.

Mr Gunn told shareholders that Mr Birch had already

from the pension fund and was being paid an annual pension of £350,000.

Mr Gunn said: "Philip Birch has a five-year contract and he did leave the company at our request after we acquired it. He is entitled to some compensation. The disagreement between us is over how much he is entitled to. There is a rather large gap between what we think the value of the contract is and what he thinks it is."

Boots is still negotiating with Mr Birch and believes that a satisfactory solution can

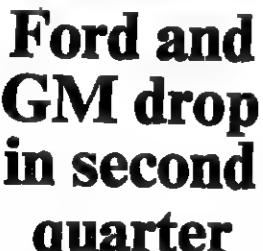
be found, but Mr Gunn said, was prepared to fight in court.

Shareholders were told that Boots the Chemist had increased sales by nearly 6 per cent in the first quarter of the current year and was increasing margins. Sales in the pharmaceuticals division are up more than 6 per cent, and Mr Gunn said that the group's confidence in its new drug for congestive heart failure, Manopax, was fully restored. The shares rose 3p to 296p.

Sir Christopher Benson becomes non-executive chairman of Boots today.

He thought his cousin would put up the £95 million, and he had cancelled the press release when he realised that he would not get the money.

Mr Gunn told shareholders that Mr Birch had already received a £960,000 lump sum



Renshaw: agreement

Comment, page 25

## Ford and GM drop in second quarter

THE two leading American car producers, Ford and General Motors, suffered sharp drops in second-quarter profits amid a flat American market and heavy spending on sales incentives.

Ford profits fell 45 per cent to \$771 million on sales up \$982 million to \$26.9 billion while General Motors fell 38 per cent to \$900 million on sales up to \$33.9 billion.

In Europe, General Motors increased its market share from 10.9 to 11.3 per cent. British sales fell slightly to 177,000 vehicles but it increased its market share from 15.1 to 16.6 per cent.

Ford's share of the European market fell slightly to 11.8 per cent and British vehicle sales dropped from 154,383 to 141,339 vehicles.

### Dyson up 11%

Pre-tax profits at J&D Dyson, the Sheffield brickmaker, climbed 11 per cent to £2.5 million in the year to end-March on turnover of £50.8 million (£50.2 million). Earnings per share are 13.4p (13.0p) and the final dividend is held at 3p, making an unchanged 5p for the year. The sale of fixed assets meant an extraordinary profit of £1.15 million before tax.

### Cabra delay

Cabra Estates is to delay announcing its preliminary results for the 15 months to end-March until the outcome of enquiries into its plans for two London football grounds are known. It expects to learn the result of its bid to redevelop Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea, and of the enquiry into the Fulham ground at Craven Cottage, where the local council is attempting to buy the property by compulsory purchase, next month. Cabra will be announcing the figures during the week starting August 13 and says it will be bound by that date.

### Property plunge

Shares in Southend Property Holdings, the property investor and developer, fell 6p to 104p on pre-tax profits down from £17.5 million to £6.4 million in the year to end-March. The final dividend payment rises by 0.25p to 2.25p, making a total 3.45p (3p) for the year. Interest payable rose from £11.4 million to £15.1 million, while gross profit was £4.9 million lower at £23.4 million.

## Jacques Vert at £4.6m in tough times



Harsh climate: Alan Green and Jack Cynamon, joint managing directors of Jacques Vert, the fashion retailer

## Unilock agrees bid by Yule

By NEIL BENNETT

YULE Catto, the speciality chemicals and building products group, has emerged as the buyer for Unilock, the office partitions manufacturer that put itself up for sale last month.

An agreed cash or loan notes offer of 106p a share, or £4.6 million, is being made. The offer is 72 per cent higher than Unilock's share price before it announced at its preliminary results that it was looking for a buyer. Shareholders also qualify for Unilock's final 2.6p dividend.

Unilock's directors and

family shareholders have accepted the bid and pledged 31 per cent of the shares.

The company decided to look for bidders after the founding family shareholders announced they had put their 30.3 per cent stake up for sale.

In the year to end-March Unilock had pre-tax profits of £3.31 million on sales of £33.8 million.

The deal should speed Yule's European expansion. It already has subsidiaries in Holland and Germany. It is funding the bid from its overdraft which will leave it with debts of £40 million.

## Norsk Hydro profits fall on low oil prices

## Receivers appointed at Headland Group

By JONATHAN PRYNN

HEADLAND Group, the USM quoted computer services company, has appointed KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock as administrative receivers following a breakdown in negotiations with shareholders about a possible refinancing.

The shares, which have underperformed the market by 70 per cent over the past three months, were suspended at 9p yesterday morning, at the company's request.

Earnings were unchanged at 9p a share.

The fate of the brewery deal now appears to lie in the hands of BBH's bankers which have to provide the additional funding for the buy-back under the compromise plan.

The banks and Bell Resources, which has contracted to buy the breweries, had earlier agreed on a £150 million facility to fund the buy-back.

It is understood the US debenture holders have indicated that they will agree to a discounted buy-back at a higher price which is thought to be 70 US cents in the dollar after adding on interest payments owing on the debentures.

## Bond unfit to run television station, says court

Chambers

ALAN Bond, the Australian entrepreneur who is fighting to prevent the disintegration of his ailing empire, was yesterday judged unfit to hold a licence to run a television station (AFP reports).

The ruling in the High Court came amid reports that Mr Bond's American creditors are close to agreeing a reprieve for his cash-strapped flagship, Bond Corporation Holdings.

The court upheld an appeal by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal that Mr Bond and his subsidiary companies were not fit or proper to hold a television licence. Analysts

said Mr Bond, who lost control of his Channel Nine television stations to Kerry Packer, the Sydney billionaire, this month, could now be forced to sell his remaining shares in the national network.

Mr Bond recently offered to step down as chairman of Bond Corp, which is saddled with billions of dollars of debt.

The tribunal appealed to the High Court after the Federal Court set aside its original decision on Mr Bond's fitness to hold broadcasting licences.

The case was related to a Aus\$400,000 (£177,300) defamation payment made by Mr Bond to the

then Queensland Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, and an allegedly threatening phone call made by Mr Bond. The High Court ordered Mr Bond to pay the costs of the appeal.

• American creditors are believed to have given Bond Corp a reprieve with a compromise offer which would allow the Aus\$1.9 billion sale of Bond's Australian breweries to go ahead (Brian Buchanan writes).

The US holders of Bond Brewing Holdings debentures reportedly made the eleventh-hour offer after earlier rejecting an "all-or-nothing" offer by BBH to buy back the debentures at a discount of 50 US cents in the dollar.

The fate of the brewery deal now appears to lie in the hands of BBH's bankers which have to provide the additional funding for the buy-back under the compromise plan.

The banks and Bell Resources, which has contracted to buy the breweries, had earlier agreed on a £150 million facility to fund the buy-back.

It is understood the US debenture holders have indicated that they will agree to a discounted buy-back at a higher price which is thought to be 70 US cents in the dollar after adding on interest payments owing on the debentures.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Home-loan demand 'starting to pick up'

THE slump in the demand for mortgages may have bottomed out, according to figures from the Committee of London and Scottish Bankers. These show that gross home loans from banks rose to £2.27 billion in the second quarter of this year, from a low point of £1.95 billion between January and March. The average value of approved mortgages rose 4 per cent to £39,300.

However, the number of loans fell, hitting a low of 34,000, against a peak of 80,100 in the third quarter of 1988. First-time buyers are taking out almost half of all mortgages, up from 43 per cent last year. The figures support building society evidence that mortgage demand may be picking up.

### Sidney Banks up to £2.16m

SIDNEY Banks, the grain and agricultural merchant, increased pre-tax profits for the year to end-April from £1.81 million to £2.16 million. Sales rose from £1.32 million to £1.44 million and earnings per share from 16.9p to 20.1p. The final dividend is 5.5p, making 8p for the year. The group is confident of a successful outcome to the year.

She said: "At one moment, I thought what he had done was extremely sophisticated. But then it seemed to drop to unbelievable levels."

Bloom, aged 20, sent a press release to the Stock Exchange screen information service, Topic, claiming that his fictitious company, Golden Credit, was putting up £95 million for a computer services company, MBS Group, the court was told. However, Topic staff became suspicious and blocked the announcement.

Christopher Drew, for the prosecution, said that Bloom, who had owned several companies, may have pulled the stunt to boost his image.

Mr Drew said: "His motive may have been self-aggrandisement, or it may have been for financial gain."

Bloom, aged 20, denied making "reckless" and "false" statements contrary to section 47 of the 1986 Financial Services Act, in what is thought to be the first case under the section, and also denied eight charges under the Companies Act, but was found guilty on all counts.

The announcement would have sent the stock market into frenzy if it had got on to exchange screens, the court was told, by David MacNamee, a market maker. People with pensions and big institutions would have suffered when the shares after swinging up, fell hard.

Bloom, of Pangbourne Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex, told the court that he had no intention of altering the price of MBS shares.

He thought his cousin would put up the £95 million, and he had cancelled the press release when he realised that he would not get the money.

Comment, page 25

### Allied raises payout

ALLIED Textiles is lifting its interim dividend from 4.4p to 4.8p after raising pre-tax profits from £5.16 million to £5.29 million for the six months to end-March. Turnover was steady at £52.7 million. Earnings per share were 13.16p (13.15p).

Income on the investment of the group's substantial cash balances more than compensated for a less buoyant performance in some of the manufacturing operations, says Gerald Wightman, the finance director. He said it is likely to be true of the second half. But the group's results in 1990-91 should benefit from the reorganisation of recently acquired

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The shares rose from 1.95p to 1.63p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. The shares firms by 1p to 65p.

### Ryan Hotels advances

RYAN Hotels, the Dartford-based hotel group, increased pre-tax profits from £614,000 to £597,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover climbed from £1.92 million to £2.13 million. Earnings per share fall from 1.95p to 1.63p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. The shares firms by 1p to 65p.

Comment, page 25

PLATINUM, the pens, furniture and houseware group, reported a pre-tax profit of £200,000 in the year to end-March, against a loss last time of £2.94 million. During the year, the company discontinued unprofitable product ranges, mainly in the houseware division. This was reflected by a fall in turnover from £28.3 million to £22.6 million, 30 per cent of which is derived from the manufacture and distribution of consumer goods. Eps stood at 0.12p, against a 2.26p loss.

Robert Campbell, who recently joined as chief executive, said that borrowings had been reduced to £2.6 million from £5 million at end-March 1989. Gearing is about 65 per cent.

### Cookson sells JM stake for £38m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

Many a chief executive has been wondering whether his board that, given the outlook for profits and the high cost of finance, dividends should be pegged, or even cut. Imperial Chemical Industries has given them all a lead by restricting its interim dividend to last year's level, an effective reduction given inflation at nearly 10 per cent. When ICI last cut its dividend, it started a flood of similar reductions and the same thing could happen this time. What is good for ICI, after all, is fine for lesser enterprises.

ICI felt it had little choice. By now, the European heavy chemicals business should have seen the bottom of the cycle, and be feeling the first gentle slopes of the upturn. But industry is still looking for the nadir. In the unmined words of Sir Denis Henderson, in the heavy chemical industry, "growth has slowed, prices are declining and costs are generally rising". It is, he said, tough out there. While we have been here before, many times, the half yearly results demonstrate that the cyclical

nature of the industry gets no better.

Profits in general chemicals are halved, in petrochemicals and plastics they have fallen by two thirds, and in fertilisers they have virtually disappeared. The figures also make the point that while ICI would be in a pretty poor state had it not driven its business upmarket and upmargin in effect chemicals, it is still not moving fast enough to keep the total moving when the old basic business is in trouble.

ICI is no longer the bellwether of British industry, but it still has the capacity to shake the market and change the tone. What shook the market yesterday is that profits in the second quarter were significantly worse than those of the first quarter, and even those followers who have argued for a rerating were wondering if they should begin eating their words. The company might be dashing up the escalator, but the stairs are still moving down.

## ICI opens door to dividend cuts

### COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

The disposal of the fertiliser business will bring in a limited amount of cash, but it will remove a raft of profitless activity and allow management and resources to be concentrated on the lighter end of the industry.

The surprise is that ICI soldiered on with a cause which Fisons considered lost a decade ago.

ICI profits will be down for the full year, and analysts were sharpening their red pencils to cut forecasts to around the £1.2 billion level for the full year. Even at that level, confidence was more a matter of whistling in the dark than conviction.

Given the state of profits and the job losses associated with the withdrawal from fertiliser manufacturer, ICI is beyond criticism

for its dividend decision. And even on a maintained final payment, which is the best and most likely outcome of the year, the shares yield a comforting 7 per cent.

The company chose a fine day to announce the sale of what remains of the country's fertiliser industry to the Finnish state-owned company, Kemira. Scarcely has the ink dried on ICI's press release when Peter Lilley, our brand new trade secretary, penned a Commons written answer to the effect that he would be looking closely at takeovers by companies having elements of state control, where such control could distort the workings of normal competitive market forces. Mr Lilley,

however, had fertilisers less in mind than banks and insurance when he took his bulldozer to try to level the playing field.

### Goodwill?

Goodwill is a term appropriate to Michael Renshaw, the patient and fatherly

partner who was present at the first meeting of the

Accounting Standards Com-

mittee when it was set up by the

accountancy institutes in 1969

and has now chaired its last. Yet

his committee's recent proposals

on goodwill in balance sheets

have caused vitriolic

controversy.

The heat generated is unmatched since the long battle over inflation accounting which gave the committee more headlines than anything else during its 20 year life, most of them hostile. Despite this monumental diversion, the 22

surviving and usually uncontroversial accounting standards it developed, as well as much other work, have transformed the quality and comparability of big companies' accounts from the bad old days.

The successor full-time Accounting Standards Board is aimed at resolving potential conflict between professionals, companies and other users by bringing them all into the standard-setting process. That will classically involve a rethink on goodwill.

Mr Renshaw has already seen the smoke from a much greater battle ahead. The development of the single European market has accelerated the inevitable collision between the flexible Anglo-Saxon system and the continental system, which focuses on detailed protective legislation and encourages conservative rather than realistic accounting. The accounting profession is much more highly developed and dynamic in Britain, along with the United States, than in most continental countries. Its ability to move with the times is under threat.

## Cash cure is needed for transport thrombosis



than as its project, BR made an unprecedented hash of developing it into 1989 and then Trafalgar House/Balfour Beatty showed a lamentable form in an uneasy partnership with BR to launch it in 1990.

Had the government said in October 1988 — "a hybrid bill to sort out road and rail connections between the north and west sides of London, Dover and the tunnel will be presented to Parliament in November 1990, with financing sorted out by April 1991", the link could have been on schedule to open in 1990/7 — probably three years after it is needed. Privatisation was the tail on the dog, to be sorted out in reviews of BR's future — yet it wagged the whole dog from the start.

Why, though, did Mrs Thatcher not say last month: "The Eurotunnel joint venture proposal is unacceptable, but the link is essential, so a

hybrid bill... etc"? There's the question.

There was severely limited vision, certainly, of a highly competitive future in a commercially integrated Europe, of which Britain is inextricably a peripheral region. The same lack of vision drives the government to seek reductions in public spending on vocational education and skills training — seeking private sector funds not to supplement a continuing but inadequate spend on them, but to replace that public spend.

The limitations in vision might still have been overcome by the evident political support generated by that growing fear of being marginalised — but for the Treasury.

It may boggle most minds that the tangible fear of the 1990/91 expenditure round would dictate avoidance of capital investment from 1992/3 to enhance taxation as "subsidy".

Alastair Morton  
Chief Executive,  
Eurotunnel

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Still waters run deep

UNAWARE that it was under close observation, a yacht called *Southern Cross* and known to be one of those owned by Alan Bond, the Australian tycoon, cruised into a picturesque harbour on Sardinia's Emerald Coast on Tuesday and dropped anchor for the night. Bond was not on board, since, given his increasingly prudent nature, the boat had been chartered out to a party of wealthy South Americans. *Southern Cross's* presence came as something of an unwelcome shock to the next floating gin palace to come into the harbour, *Hansa*, which abruptly stopped preparations to drop anchor, and went in search of another stopover. *Hansa*, as luck would have it, is owned by none other than Tiny Rowland, the Lonrho chief executive. And although he did not appear to be on board either, several members of his family were. The setting for this amusing incident was the bay used in the James Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me*, in which

a white Lotus car is driven out of the water on to the beach. That beach is overlooked by one of the plushest hotels in the vicinity, the Cala da Volte, which, translated from Spanish, means, appropriately, Bay of the Fox. For, witnessing the whole affair was Ali Fayed, the House of Fraser chairman, as he sipped his non-alcoholic sun-downer on the deck of his tea schooner, *Sakara*, moored in the same bay.

### Reeling 'n' rocking

THE Highlands and Islands of Scotland could be reeling — or maybe even rock 'n' rolling — in September when Ian Robertson chief executive designate of the new Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Due to come into existence officially in April next year, the HIE will replace the 25-year-old Highlands and Islands Development Board, set up by the government to stem the area's depopulation. For although he is a native of Perthshire, Robertson, aged 40, is not the sort of man one would expect to find tucked away in one of Scotland's more remote areas. A solicitor-turned-oil

industry man, and the son of a Church of Scotland minister, he has been employed by BP in Cleveland, Ohio, for the past three years, as the director responsible for acquisitions and divestitures

GIVING share tips is a hazardous occupation, as Hoare Govett has learned to its cost. The chief executive of a building company recently sacked the firm as his brother and he has now let slip that he once asked an HG corporate financier for a tip. He was told to buy Lowndes Queensway, then 50p. The chief executive duly invested £5,000 of his own money. Yesterday the shares closed at 24p. There but for the grace of God...

### Mot juste

SIR Trevor Holdsworth, incoming chairman of National Power, has given his own explanation for the choice of Bob Norton — then chief executive of BP's North American operations, and now chairman of the whole group — to lead a campaign to have Cleveland selected as the location for a national rock 'n'

roll museum and hall of fame. So persuasive were Robertson's presentations that Cleveland, not otherwise known for its tourist attractions, won.

THE legendary if anonymous "Man from the Pru" seems to have materialised. An announcement from the International Stock Exchange on the membership of an inter-markets working party to sort out the mess over index futures calculations names ten people who will join Peter Jones, chairman of the index committee and the working party in his deliberations. The announcement adds darkly: "A representative from Prudential will also join the working party."

Carol Leonard



### TEMPUS

## Mountleigh's future brightens

FOLLOWERS of Mountleigh have spent so long groping in the dark that the burst of light flooding the latest results was almost blinding. As the vision cleared, Mountleigh began to appear a real investment prospect again.

A degree of scepticism about the group's new funding lights Nelson Petz and Peter May, the American entrepreneurs, has been understandable, even creditable, but it left the market somewhat unprepared yesterday for the scale of the new team's year-end clear-out and future ambition.

Mountleigh is a property company that wants to be an industrial conglomerate. Market conditions dictate that it remains a property company longer than it would like, but the management has written down the value of the portfolio to what everyone else thought it was worth all along, and will unload what they can, when they can.

When you have made as much money as Mr Petz and Mr May, and you bring in a chief executive as respected as Clive Strower, GrandMet's former finance director, it is a little easier to squeeze money and time out of your bankers.

Mountleigh has been promised some £335 million of financing by the banks who have already made fortunes from backing the two Americans' skill in restructuring trading companies. And the cash is already earmarked for pan-European acquisitions, something with strong brands, tangible assets and powerful stock market possibilities.

Only someone with an impressive track record will have won agreement to embark on such a plan while so much of the dead wood remains to be cleared out.

However, all Mountleigh's cards have been laid on the table. Britain has been written down by £56.1 million, to around £550 million, while provisions of £19.8 million have been charged against the cost of McKinsey-inspired plan for Galerias Preciosas, the Spanish retailer.

The two exceptions more than accounted for operating profits of just £60.3 million, and with interest soaking up a further £31.2 million, tax taking £8.1 million and extraordinary losses such as the loss on the

paper mill Smith is developing at Kemsley. The development soaked up £10 million of capital expenditure in the last financial year and the company has a further £13 million allocated to it for next. The mill is not scheduled to come fully on stream until financial year 1991/92. When it does, it will add 200,000 tons to the company's capacity and will be one of the most advanced paper mills in Europe.

So far, so good, but only if you believe this year's flat consumer demand can recover to take up the supply. The jury is still out on this point, hence some very wide-ranging forecasts for two years down the track. Bulls are pencilling in £45 million pre-tax profits for 1991/92, bears, £10 million less.

In the meantime, the company is well capitalised, with gearing at around 30 per cent, and can still be regarded as a legitimate bid target. The 3.7 per cent yield is unexciting and the 11.3 multiple not particularly cheap, but it does represent a significant discount to the sector on the more optimistic view. With its solid earnings of assets, the share is attractive to the longer-term investor.

Robert M Douglas

PERHAPS somebody should tell Robert M Douglas that the building sector has hit a recession. The civil engineer and construction equipment

group has demonstrated remarkable resilience by delivering a 39 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £12.39 million at this stage of the building cycle.

Margins have been maintained despite competitive pressures, and a 62 per cent increase in the annual dividend to 10.5p a share suggests that directors are confident that this is no fluke. The current order book is worth £250 million.

Douglas has succeeded through specialising in a glamorous niche area. Construction equipment, the largest contributor to group profits, supplies the moulds into which concrete is poured to make tunnels or bridges. Thus the company is involved with a wide range of schemes from the Channel Tunnel to roadbuilding. The smaller specialist contracting division builds car parks.

Douglas has also focused on its home ground in the Midlands, where activity is still relatively strong, and has avoided London and the southeast. Its fledgling housebuilding operations, built on land acquired at low prices years ago, are dotted around the Black Country where prices are steady.

Gearing at year-end was just 16.5 per cent, and borrowings will virtually disappear after the sale of a timeshare operation in the Lake District which the company expects to complete this year.

The company is well-placed to benefit as soon as interest rates fall. At 375p, on a prospective p/e of 6.25, the shares are cheap.



## 1990 Half Year Results

The unaudited trading results of the Group for the first half of 1990, with comparative figures for 1989, are as follows:

1990		1989	
First Half	Year*	First Half	Year*
1,468	2,917	United Kingdom	1,526
5,174	10,254	Overseas	5,297
6,642	13,171	Total	6,823
915	1,527	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	733
562	930	Net profit attributable to parent company	472
—	127	Extraordinary items	-100
82.0p	135.0p	Earnings before extraordinary items per £1 Ordinary Share	67.4p
21.0p	55.0p	Dividends (net) per £1 Ordinary Share	21.0p

\*Abridged results full accounts with an unqualified audit report have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first nine months of 1990 will be announced on Thursday 25 October 1990.

## Losses deepen at Owners Abroad after rise in costs

By MARTIN BARROW

OWNERS Abroad, the tour operator and airline seat broker, incurred pre-tax losses of £10.4 million in the six months to end-April, against losses of £7.8 million last time. Turnover rose 43 per cent to £81.6 million.

However, because of the seasonal nature of the travel business, the period under review accounts for just 25 per cent of the total number of passengers likely to be carried in the full year.

Overheads, though, are spread evenly throughout the year and the heavier losses reflect the company's expanded operations. In March Owners Abroad acquired Redwing Holidays, which was 50 per cent owned by British Airways, for £5.4 million.

The pre-tax figure was struck after an exceptional charge of £63,000 in respect of the write-off of aircraft introductory costs. There was a loss of 12.01p (9.09p) a share. The interim dividend has been increased 17 per cent to 0.825p.

Howard Klein, chairman, said winter bookings rose 39 per cent to 258,000, a record, despite a 15 per cent drop in overall demand for package



Klein: record bookings

holidays during the period.

Air 2000, the company's charter airline, operated four aircraft, compared with two last year, leasing five others to foreign airlines.

The financial services division, specialising in school fee planning, earned profits of £11,600, against losses of £18,000, on turnover up 200 per cent to £54,000.

Summer bookings are currently 20 per cent above last year's levels, with a higher proportion of holidays being sold at full brochure price. The Air 2000 fleet, now numbering 10 after the purchase of a Boeing 737, has sold its entire capacity for the summer.

## Warning on profits at Cooper

By OUR CITY STAFF

FREDERICK Cooper, the Midlands-based mini-communications, has given a warning of lower profits in the year to July 31, and announced two acquisitions (Jonathan Prynne writes).

The company forecast year-end pre-tax profits of £4.6 million, a 47 per cent drop on last year's £8.7 million. It plans to recommend a 2.5p final dividend, making 4p for the year (3.85p), 4 per cent rise.

The company is paying £6.6 million for Group Sales, Britain's second largest independent distributor of fittings to the uPVC door and window industry, and £3.8 million for Beaver Architectural Ironmongery, a distributor of architectural ironmongery to the commercial sector.

The acquisitions are being financed through the issue of 13.6 million new shares at 81p.

The new shares, which are being placed by Charterhouse Bank, will be subject to a clawback from existing shareholders.

## Hong Kong lifted by Tokyo cash

From LULU YU  
IN HONG KONG

JAPANESE investments, signalling confidence in Hong Kong, are pulling the colony out of a gloomy first half notable for the economy's lacklustre performance.

Huge amounts of money are going to the retail and property sectors, in turn boosting the stock market with the active share trading.

Tokyo investors are targeting residential blocks, department stores and blue-chip stocks, including significant stakes in the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.

Although there are no up-to-date figures on the amount of Japanese investments, it is clear they have the biggest presence.

Figures from Tokyo show that in the 1988-9 fiscal year the Japanese invested HK\$14 billion (£1 billion), with about 1,300 companies doing business in the colony, including 55 banks and 33 securities firms.

Analysts say the trend is expected to continue, with more diverse businesses encouraged to follow the big corporations.

Pearson, whose interests stretch from Madame Tussauds to Lazard's merchant bank, Royal Doulton, the Financial Times and Penguin publishing, fell 6p to 745p after a downgrading of profits by Kleinwort Benson, the broker. Brownlow Maddon, analyst, has reduced her pre-tax profit forecast for this year from £285 million to £268 million.

VPI International, the public relations group, has agreed to pay New York State \$1

million to settle matters connected with the conviction of former VPI director Donald Carter for stealing money from clients. VPI shares shed 4p at 145p.

Thorn EMI remained a nervous market, easing 10p at 705p ahead of today's annual meeting. Market-makers have been clearing their books of surplus stock just in case the

company decides to issue a profits warning.

Water shares continued to attract selective support ahead of the second call of 70p due on Tuesday. Rises were seen in Anglian, up 2p to 233p, Northumbrian 4p to 242p, North West 3p to 236p, Severn Trent 5p to 220p, Southern 3p to 210p, South West 2p to 240p, Thames 2p to 234p, Welsh 5p to 252p, and Yorkshire 3p to 249p. Only Wessex was unchanged at 227p.

Shares of Headland, the USM-quoted computer software group, were suspended at 9p pending clarification of the company's financial position.

In May the group laid off 90 staff — a quarter of its

workforce — and forecast significant losses.

Shares of Unilever, the office

products supplier, jumped 22p to 105p after receiving an agreed £24.6 million bid from Yule Catio, the specialist chemicals and building equipment group. Yule Catio is offering 106p in cash and has already received acceptances totalling 30 per cent.

Leap, the freight forwarding

and storage group, held steady at 192p despite the news that Michael Ascroft's ADT had picked up an extra 1.63 million shares taking its total holding to 14.15 per cent. ADT also owns 41.1 million shares, or 8.2 per cent, in BAA Group, which operates Gatwick and Heathrow airports. BAA eased 2p to 465p.

Reuter fell 11p to £10.32

after this week's disappointing figures and the warning that cancellations for the group's information system had increased. But sales of its Deal

ing 2000 system were still

doing well and the group had, to date, sold 2,800 key

stations.

Michael Clark

## Tokyo brokers 'compensated clients'

From JOSE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

ANOTHER side of Japan's clubby business practices emerged yesterday when Tokyo tax authorities revealed that some of Japan's biggest stockbrokers paid about Y16 billion (£9.9 million) to large investors who had suffered losses in the 1987 stock market crash.

The tax office is planning to ask the more than ten compa-

nies involved, including Daiwa Securities and Yamaichi Securities, to pay about Y7 billion-Y8 billion in back tax on the deal. Yamaichi, one of Japan's biggest brokers, was closed at 31,369.75.

The sweetheart deals uncovered so far could be just part of the picture, according

to sources at the Tokyo tax office, which predicts that further investigations could push the total compensation paid by brokers to their clients in 1987 over ¥20 billion.

The finance ministry is ex- pected to launch an investigation to establish whether indemnifying clients in this way violates Japan's securities and exchange law. Article 50 of this law bans brokers from offering guarantees against possible losses in share or other financial dealings.

The compensation was apparently disguised in the stockbrokers' books as losses on transactions in high-yield

securities, such as warrants and convertible bonds. These were sold privately below their market prices and repurchased later at higher prices.

All the companies accused of wrongdoing say they have never dealt in such transactions and say the money paid to their clients was for "entertainment" and other expenses. A spokesman for Yamaichi said it came down to a difference of opinion as to how to treat the money. "We have two different views. We gave the tax bureau our explanation and believed that the agency was fully satisfied with our explanation."

## Goode jumps 25% to £13.5m

By JONATHAN PRYNNE

GOODE Durrant, the industrial and financial management group, increased pre-tax profits 25 per cent to £13.5 million in the year to end-April, against £10.8 last time. The increase was secured on turnover of £257.8 million, a rise of 10 per cent.

However, earnings growth, up 17 per cent to £1.6p a share, was held back by a higher tax charge of 31 per cent (27 per cent) and an interest charge of £3.35 million, up 171 per cent. Interest cover dropped from 10 to 4.8 times.

The vehicle and equipment

division was by far the best performer in the group, recording a 173 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.2 million.

Michael Waring, chairman, said the division had experienced strong demand throughout the year. It had been backed up by a number of small acquisitions. This had significantly increased market share.

Profit in the company's other divisions, international trading (£1.23 million), banking and finance (£2.41 million) and trade finance (£1.01 million) were all slightly lower.

The housebuilding and construction division showed a 23 per cent drop in profits to £1.62 million. Mr Waring said the company had taken steps

to soften the impact of the deterioration in the housebuilding market in the South-east by reducing its stock of built or partly built houses.

Investment in improved after-sales service at Laidlaw, the company's Ford dealership subsidiary produced an 11 per cent increase in profits to £1.96 million.

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Investment in improved after-sales service at Laidlaw, the company's Ford dealership subsidiary produced an 11 per cent increase in profits to £1.96 million.

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## Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight price movements on this page. Add them to your total and check this against the overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. You will follow the daily movements on the back of your card. Always keep your card available for claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## ICI leads way down

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 23. Dealings end August 3. Contango day August 6. Settlement day August 13. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 26)

No.	Company	Group	Code or Isin	Price	High	Low	Commodity	Bid	Offer	Change	Sp. p	Gross	Yield	P/E
1	Hungryman	Paper, Print, Advt		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	17.00	15.00
2	VSEL	Industrials S-Z		1.40	1.40	1.39		1.39	1.40	-0.01	0.00	1.40	13.00	11.00
3	Herring Son	Property		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
4	Rolls-Royce (as)	Motors, Aircraft		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
5	Greys Gross	Paper, Print, Advt		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
6	Barratt Devs	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
7	BPP	Newspapers, Pub		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
8	Foster (John)	Textiles		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
9	Anglova Water	Water		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
10	ECT Group (as)	Industrials E-K		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
11	Scot & Nett (as)	Breweries		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
12	Home Counties	Newspapers, Pub		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
13	Hawker Siddeley (as)	Industrials E-K		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
14	Storehouse (as)	Drapers, Stores		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
15	Sitron	Electricals		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
16	South West	Water		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
17	Low (Wm)	Foods		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
18	Boots (as)	Industrials A-D		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
19	Chamberlin & Hill	Industrials A-D		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
20	Bellwiche	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
21	Baggeridge Brick	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
22	RMC Gp (as)	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
23	Tunstall	Electricals		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
24	Multitone Elect	Electricals		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
25	Tomkens	Industrials S-Z		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
26	Granada (as)	Industrials E-K		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
27	Rechem	Industrials L-R		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
28	Macarthy	Industrials L-R		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
29	Hickson	Chemicals, Plas		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
30	Edfors	Industrials E-K		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
31	Cap & Counties	Property		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
32	Friendly Hotels	Hotels, Casinos		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
33	BSP Inds (as)	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
34	Son TV	Leisure		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
35	Bowesgate	Electricals		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
36	Wimpey G (as)	Building, Roads		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
37	Speckwell	Property		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
38	Edrington Warnings	Transport		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
39	Nobo Gp	Industrials L-R		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
40	North West	Water		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
41	Ferguson Ind	Paper, Print, Advt		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
42	Century	Oil/Gas		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
43	Sihra Water	Water		1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00
44	© Times Newspapers Ltd.			1.00	1.00	0.99		0.99	1.00	-0.01	0.00	1.00	10.00	8.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend									
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.									
MON									
TUE									
WED									
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FRI									
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SUN									
MON									
TUE									





# Racing success takes a new route

Cosworth, famous for its high-performance engines, is also making its mark in the saloon-car field. Tim Healy takes a rev count

**C**osworth engines have powered cars through the chequered flags in most kinds of motor sport, including the glamorous Formula One. Yet the company has resisted the temptation to indulge in any kind of hype. Wild claims are not the style of these innovators of motor engineering.

Their skill has already benefited motorists. The company's main success, of course, has been the Cosworth-powered Sierra and Sapphire series of saloons made by Ford, which as a result has increased Cosworth turnover by 400 per cent and increased sales to almost £53 million a year, benefiting also the 700 engineers and other workers who are based in Northamptonshire and Worcestershire.

That healthy growth also made the company a takeover target and in April Vickers bought Cosworth for £163.5 million, which meant the prospect of developments with Vickers' Rolls-Royce Motor Cars subsidiary. Richard Bulman, Cosworth's managing director, hints that there are "a couple of prospects", but for commercial reasons, he will not elaborate.

Since Ford bought the Cosworth concept of the high-performance family car in the mid-Eighties, the

marriage has earned Group A World Touring Car champion status for the Sierra Cosworth and a British Design Council Award in 1988 for the Cosworth Sapphire. Supplying 5,000 engines to Ford last year has meant that the Sapphire Cosworth will be able to raise its rallying profile still further.

Paul Fricker, Cosworth's executive engineer, who has overseen the development of the Sapphire Cosworth engine for the past six-and-a-half years, says his brief had been to provide an engine that could give dependable high performance at a fraction of the £100,000 demanded by manufacturers of cars offering similar capabilities.

"Unfortunately," says Mr Fricker, "some Cosworth drivers treat the cars like ordinary Fords and run them dry. However, even if driven to the maximum, our engine uses half the oil of some other high-performance cars."

Although Ford is estimated to account for 70 per cent of Cosworth business these days, the complete package of engineering expertise and manufacturing it offers is in great demand at home and overseas. High on the list of manufacturers wanting to be in-



RS Cosworth-powered Sapphire 4x4: Providing engines for Ford has boosted Cosworth

volved with the best of British companies are the Japanese.

Mr Bulman comments: "Our success is due to our ability to design, develop and build a successful engine. Only one company is comparable and that is Yamaha. Other manufacturers have expertise, but they cannot match us."

Customers who have benefited from Cosworth's complete range of expertise include Mercedes-

Benz, Maserati, Jaguar and several continental manufacturers who choose to their relationship with the Northamptonshire firm secret.

Mr Bulman adds: "Our working relationships are exceptionally good with Ford because the company does not inhibit our working with other people."

With so much success on Cosworth's hands in road engine projects, the emphasis of the

enterprise has, not surprisingly, changed since the advent of the Sierra Cosworth. Until the mid-Eighties, racing accounted for 90 per cent of the business. Now, two-thirds of the company's activities are taken up by saloon-car engines, despite the simultaneous development of a new generation Formula One engine.

Mr Bulman explains: "The transformation has been made possible by the large pool of skills

we possess." That expertise, the legacy of the founders, Michael Costin and Keith Duckworth, is fostered by paying the right people above-market rates and giving them the opportunity to use their creative abilities.

Graduate recruitment at Cosworth is twice the average for the automotive industry. Paper qualifications, however, are not the only criterion the management team uses to select bright new talent. "An exciting CV counts more than most things," Mr Bulman says.

**D**espite Cosworth's high-performance image, the green debate has influenced company thinking. Executives detect waste and make watchwords of efficiency and durability.

"By nature, we are rather abstemious," says Mr Bulman, explaining why the company actually owns only one Sierra Cosworth. "You do not get high performance without high efficiency. If you put your foot down on the Sierra turbo, it will drink fuel away. But, if you drive carefully without the turbo, you get extraordinary economy."

In the future, engines will be smaller but more efficient. Mr Bulman adds: "Already our engines are as horse-power-efficient as any on the market, and we are continually working on lean-burn technology. The internal combustion engine seems to have a long life yet."

## ROADWISE

### Bonus price for Fiesta

**I**The Fiesta Bonus is now the cheapest car in the range from Ford. The Bonus is equipped the same way as the current Popular car, but has a four-speed gearbox and 1-litre engine. At least 12,000 Bonuses will be on sale for £5,399, £336 lower than the Popular.

**I** Drivers joining the Automobile Association using direct debit or credit card do not have to pay fees until October. Free phone 0800 819555 for details.

**I**The biggest collection of classic cars under one roof in the north of England is at the Northern Classic Car Show on August 26 and 27 at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester. More than 300 cars will be there, while there will also be auctions of all standards of models. Admission £4 adults; £3 pensioners and children under 14 free.

**I**Patrick MacCabeon, the actor who is Number Six kept everyone by their television sets during the cult series *The Prisoner*, has bought his own number six this time the stud in a limited edition of Caterham's Super 7 model. It is a reproduction of the green and yellow Lotus 7 used by McCabeon in the series.

**I**A motorcyclist's nightmare is hitting a wet patch on his or she cannot see. Diesel fuel, which is colourless and often escapes from heavy goods vehicles, is one of the biggest problems. New government rules force better maintenance of fuel tanks to prevent future spillages.

All-terrain vehicles, more popular than ever, are now being used as more than go-and-show cars. Specialist firms are refining them to increase their versatility

## One more for the off-road

**M**itsubishi's Shogun looks an unlikely candidate for a performance vehicle, but the V6 turbo conversion by Brodies Britain Racing (BBR) gives it 260bhp for high acceleration in the mid-speed range, although it is a bulky vehicle.

Customers asked BBR to give the Shogun more power for easier towing and safer overtaking and more than 250 conversions have been carried out on the four-cylinder version. Now the company, in Brackley, Northamptonshire, has added turbo to the V6 model and given a new dimension to a vehicle previously considered a comfortable

workhorse. The upgraded Shogun, with an automatic gearbox, is a pleasure to drive, and the power, when the turbo opens up, is ideal for overtaking.

Top speed is 101 mph (112 mph with manual gearbox) but 0-60mph in 9.9 seconds is respectable for any car, let alone an off-road multi-seater equipped with an altimeter and an inclinometer, which warns off-road drivers how far the vehicle is leaning over.

Jeremy Russ, BBR's public relations manager says: "This is not a car for the boy racer, but for somebody who wants smooth power and relaxed driving. Customers are mainly

people following country pursuits. The converted Shogun is usually a second car for the hunting, shooting and fishing fraternity. It is very versatile."

To produce the Shogun turbo conversion, BBR used its competition experience, gained while preparing Mitsubishi's Starion for race trim over several seasons and from racing a Ford Sapphire Cosworth. Power is boosted

more than 56 per cent, and torque rises 68 per cent, substantially increasing pulling power, essential for the sort of customers going to BBR, who often want to pull trailers or caravans.

The V6 gets a full Garrett

turbo assembly, modified fuel

injection and a reprogrammed

engine-management system,

which increase power and improve the fuel economy.

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## BRIEFINGS

■ DESIGN Works, an enterprise initiative by the Burton group to create a centre for design excellence at a refurbished factory in Felling, Gateshead, was expected, when it opened at the end of last year, to be approaching self-financing during 1992. Instead, the charitable trust running it — bringing together public sector and private resources — is already operating at a profit. Twenty-three companies are established there, employing 124 people. Their combined turnover is £3.5 million. Among the newcomers is Sally Penn Smith, aged 24, a Sunderland Polytechnic graduate whose company, Penni Smith Glass, has had orders from Macy's department store in New York and the Tang's store in Singapore. Sean Blair, a product designer, aged 23, won the Shell Livewire Trophy recently because of what was seen as his potential to become an influential design figure this decade. The designers rent inexpensive space and have the guidance of an experienced management team. The Burton group provided the factory. The venture also offers design training for established managers in industry.

■ TRAC, the organisation launched recently to campaign for tax relief on child care, believes that current tax relief of this kind discriminates against small businesses because they are unlikely to be able to provide workplace nurseries which qualify for relief. Small businesses are precluded from using child care vouchers. An option is to make joint payments with the firm, but TRAC maintains such ventures are onerous and unworkable. A survey for TRAC showed three-quarters of small businesses are doing nothing to attract women returning to work after starting a family whereas nearly two-thirds of bigger companies are providing incentives. TRAC, of which the Association of Independent Businesses is a member, is a partnership between commerce, industry and the voluntary sector.

# Going from bags to riches

By MICHAEL TATE

TWO years ago, Ray Jones was carrying other people's bags at a London hotel. This week, he was in New York opening an American branch of the Linx Corporation, his £1 million ticket agency business.

Mr Jones will be at Woburn Abbey for Tina Turner's Farewell to Britain concert this weekend. A fortnight ago, he was ensconced in a castle outside Waterford, in Ireland, with a party of City stockbrokers on a fishing and golfing weekend. The week before that, he was at the Frank Sinatra concerts in the London Arena — every one of them.

Ray Jones has become London's Mr Fixit for locals and tourists alike. "You name the event, we've got people there," he says. He prides himself on being able to provide tickets for any event in London, without resorting to the black market.

The Linx Corporation is, however, more than just a ticket agency. It specialises in customised package deals, booking hotel rooms, theatre tickets, restaurant tables and transport to the client's specification.

Mr Jones is a fast-talking, sharp-witted Londoner, but he relies on more than intuition.

He is determined to see that the Cranfield Business School wins its share of the credit for his success. "Cranfield gave me the skills and support I needed in the early days. I was very innocent. I had no idea what a business plan was, and I'd never heard of cash flow. All I had was a loose business idea. Now, Linx is arranging visits to London for thousands."

Mr Jones's loose business idea



Just the ticket: Ray Jones, chief of Linx, prides himself on his abilities as a Mr Fixit. He began to germinate when he became London's youngest head concierge at the age of 21. Working at the Mountbatten Hotel, across the street from the Drury Lane Theatre, he quickly developed a reputation as a Mr Fixit.

"People would arrive with no hotel reservation, no car, and unable to get tickets for the show they hoped to see, or a table at the restaurant that had been recommended. I thought 'There must be an opportunity here.' Soon, I was a case of 'If you want anything in London, call Ray Jones'."

He is now 30, and if there is anything happening in London, he has clients there. These include

Coca-Cola, Capital Radio, IBM and L'Oréal, and a string of foreign governments. He took 1,200 people to see Frank Sinatra at the Docklands and 100 a night to the Rolling Stones and Madonna concerts at Wembley. One of his first deals was to organise a trip to see Liverpool play in the 1988 Cup Final.

Mr Jones's biggest contract was for five Wimbledon debuts, a suite at the Ritz and three Bentleys a day for a Middle East client. He also found an air ticket for a McDonald's executive caught in Bucharest during last year's overthrow of Ceausescu.

"I say 'A million thanks to Cranfield, and next year it may be three million,'" said Mr Jones.

Linx's new American office has

# Enterprise councils bring order to small firm advice services

By DEREK HARRIS

TRAINING and enterprise councils are taking over the counselling role of the government's small-firms service and are to be offered access to the "freephone enterprise" helpline and database.

The employment department is keen to extend the helpline facility. The idea is for the councils to provide the same high-quality of service that was offered by the small-firms service, which was built up over 18 years.

There are now 15 councils in operation and another 62 are being set up. Support for the councils from local businesses and other organisations is being matched pound for pound by the government.

The councils are expected to bring a little more order to the wide variety of organisations offering help to small businesses, offering help to small businesses. The hope is also that they will be better placed to help start-ups through their early growing pains. With this end in mind, the councils are to take over administration of the enterprise allowance scheme for start-ups and the business growth-incentive

The imminent demise of the small-firms service has, however, prompted reservations in some quarters for it offers considerable help to smaller businesses. Last year it dealt with nearly 318,000 enquiries from small businesses, a 13 per cent rise on the year before, and ran nearly 51,000 counselling seminars, an increase of nearly 15

per cent. It also advised another 37,000 clients, a rise of 20 per cent.

A record number of new businesses was set up last year. Based on registrations for value-added tax, an estimated £7,000, or 1,700 a week, were established, compared to 6,000 in 1988 and 42,000 in 1987.

Pat Eggar, outgoing minister for small business, maintained that the record figures put in perspective recent reports of increased rates of business failures.

The growth has affected all regions. It is illustrated, he felt, "the real, broad-based strength of the small firms sector".

There are now 1.6 million VAT-registered businesses, an increase of 350,000 since 1980. The figures do not include many of the 3.3 million self-employed in Britain.

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جامعة الملك عبد الله

# Riding to recognition in a foreign land

Greg LeMond, the American who won the Tour de France for the second year in succession this week, will be making a rare appearance in Britain when he competes this weekend on the roads around Brighton.

LeMond, who also holds the world professional road race championship, is taking part in the Wincanton Classic, one of the 13 events around the globe in the World Cup series.

Last year, after Greg LeMond had won the Tour de France for the second time and returned to the United States for the winter, the French sports newspaper *L'Equipe* sent a reporter with him to write about the reaction back home. There wasn't much, the journalist's account said. When LeMond went to the White House to see President Bush, not a head turned in recognition as LeMond strolled up Pennsylvania Avenue. Even worse, when he reported at the airport in Minneapolis that a suitcase was missing from the flight, the woman behind the counter never looked up when he gave his name. "How do you spell that?" was all she asked. The Frenchman wrote that LeMond seemed accustomed to this treatment and was not even ruffled.

Despite the French sonnet of his family name, Gregory James LeMond is as American as mud pie or his favourite Tex-Mex enchiladas. His ancestors were mainly Scots-Irish on his father's side, and English and Cherokee Indian on his mother's. "Possibly my dad's side of the family is French way back," he says in trying to explain the sound of his name. "The name used to be spelled LeMond, but they dropped the 'e' because in America everybody pronounced it 'LeMond'."

His sense of being an American, and therefore a curiosity in cycling, was reinforced throughout LeMond's first years as a professional racer. For many seasons in Europe, he was always introduced at races as "Greg LeMond, l'Américain" or "Greg LeMond, el Americano". French, Spanish and Italian crowds marvelled at the rarity of an American competing in what was regarded as a pre-eminently European sport. Yet late in the 19th-century professional bicycle racing was a major American sport, rivalling even baseball. "Cycle racing occupies as prominent a place in the estimation of the ever-varicating public as any sport recorded on the calendar," reported *Spalding's Official Bicycle Guide* for 1898, two years after the Telegram Trophy Race in Worcester, Massachusetts, had attracted 50,000 spectators. With the advent of the automobile, however, the roads were cleared of cycling races and the sport began to focus on the track, where sprinting and six-day races remained popular for decades. A full racing circuit ranged from Boston and Worcester to Newark, New Jersey; St Louis, Missouri; Toledo, Ohio; Forty Wayne, Indiana; Des Moines and Council Bluffs, Iowa; Salt Lake City; and San Francisco and San Jose, California.

Then the sport went into such a total decline during the Depression that Americans forgot about it. When LeMond won the Tour de France in 1989, the ABC programme devoted to the final stage attracted a North American audience measured at five points, more than double most previous Tour programmes. Explaining the rating, an ABC official told *L'Equipe* that though such a rating was far below the World Series or the Super Bowl, it was respectable for "a non-American sport."

LeMond bristles at this attitude, even though he understands it. He remembers that he bought his first bike not to race but simply to get around. When Americans think of the cycle, they think mainly of transportation, rarely of competition. Cycling is the most popular American recreational sport, with 85 million participants, including 20 million who cycle at least once a week, but the difference between recreational and professional riders is enormous.

"Everybody rides a bicycle when he's a kid, and so he thinks it's the easiest thing in the world to do," Bernard Hinault, the French rider, often complains. "Or may be they still ride on the weekend with their kids or go shopping on a bicycle. That's enough to convince them that they understand racing. Sometimes they might even get rained on before they make it home, so they think they know just how it is for us with 150 kilometres to go in rain or snow. If everybody's done it, it can't be very hard, can it?"

Especially since 1984, when US riders won a handful of gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympic Games because such traditional powerhouses as East Germany and the Soviet Union boycotted the event, cycle racing has been gaining popularity in the United States. The United States Cycling Federation which governs the sport, often cites the 1984 Olympics as the spark the sport needed to catch fire — an attitude that LeMond contests. "The people there don't understand anything," he complained a few years ago, before the federation changed many of its officers. "My dad was talking to a USCF official who said, 'It's incredible how popular cycling has become in the United States. We've gotten 6,000 new licences in the four or five months since August 1986, and I honestly can't tell you why I don't understand why the sport is so popular now.' He took no account of my victory in the 1986 Tour and how much the publicity about it meant to cycling in America. I believe most of its growth in the US comes from my first victory in the Tour."

Of course, college football champions and World Series winners routinely visit the White House, but LeMond was the first cyclist to be received there, after his first Tour victory, by President Reagan. ("He gave Geoffrey [LeMond's first son] some jelly beans.") In September 1989, LeMond again visited the White House and gave President Bush a yellow jersey.

LeMond's anger with US cycling officials is long-standing and antedates even their opposition, once the boycott of the Moscow Olympics was announced, to LeMond's decision to turn professional. Years later, his usually calm face would turn angry when he thought about their scepticism and obstructionism. In fairness to the officials, he did point out that before him only a few Americans had tried to race as professionals in Europe, and that none had been a champion. Still, years of accumulated bitterness took over as he remembered the clashes with USCF officials at the world championships in Prague



Hitting the road to success: LeMond strives to recover his fitness during the 1987 tour (above) and claims the world championship in 1989 (above right)

## GREG LEMOND FACTS AND FIGURES

Born: June 26, 1961, Lakewood, California.

Lives: Wayzata, Minnesota.

Achievements: World junior champion, 1978; world professional road race champion, 1983 and 1989; first American to win Tour de France, 1986; won it again, 1989. Only four riders have won both world professional road race championship and the Tour de France in the same year.

and Goodwood, and what he perceived as a lack of respect for his accomplishments.

By European standards — ones LeMond is now accustomed to — the USCF was long regarded as a notoriously inept group divided by internal politics and at best indifferent to US professional riders. "The amateur programme in America has people with no knowledge advising it," LeMond complained after his first Tour victory. "Predictably, American cycling officials were upset by my turning pro. Eddy Borysowicz warned me, 'You're going to burn out by turning professional.' Burn out! What I've been burned by is sideline coaches, especially when I was young and much more advanced than anybody else in America cycling. Sideline coaches don't know nearly as much as they think they do. Luckily, I had a level enough head to realise that nobody in the US knew what they were talking about. If I'd listened to all the sideline coaches there,

I'd have stayed an amateur until the 1984 Olympic Games, which would have stymied my whole career. I might never have been the cyclist that I am today.

Coaching in the US work at a much lower level than, say, Cyrille Guimard (former manager of the Renault team). They simply don't know what it takes to make it.

"So I made up my own mind. I honestly feel I've always made the right decisions for my career. A lot of people said, 'Greg is going to be chewed up by the Europeans. He won't accomplish anything.' They got it wrong, didn't they?"

"But that's the way they think at the top level in American cycling. Let me tell you about the junior world championships in Argentina in 1979. It was probably the most successful junior world championships for an American team ever, and I don't think we got even a congratulatory telegram from anybody connected with the US Cycling Federation except for Eddy B."

"In Buenos Aires, we did something that's never been done in American cycling, and I won three medals. Finally we're going to get some recognition, I thought. On the plane back home we all wore our USA uniforms, and we wondered how many journalists would be at the airport and how big the crowd would be. But at Kennedy Airport only Eddy B was waiting for us. Nobody else cared. There were no journalists, no fans, and especially no USCF officials."

LeMond will not acknowledge it, but he knows that American officials were right to worry about his chances in Europe at that time. "Finally, though, with the 7-Eleven team turning professional in 1985 and participating in European races like the Tour de France, people in the United States are getting a good view of how hard professional cycling is. I race in Europe because that's where the best competition is. If the best competition was in the US I'd be racing there."

"Ever since I went to Europe, I've been accused of neglecting American racing, but I feel I've been doing more good for Americans by cycling in Europe. I could race in the US for the next 20 years and not do as much good for American cycling as I did by winning the Tour de France. When was the last time you saw the result of a bicycle race on the front page of *The New York Times*?"

Along with any imagined or real criticism in his own country, which became muted after he had been shot and seriously hurt in a hunting accident in 1987, LeMond has endured criticism in Europe because of his way of life. Other American riders have analyzed the difference between American and European attitudes, and Ron Kieff of the 7-Eleven team, who was the US national champion in 1988, sums it up well. "Americans see things outside cycling," he says. "We have a much broader perspective. We think about education and our families. We know that if something happens, we can always go out and get a good job. In Europe it's cycling or nothing; you ride your bike or you go work in a factory or on a farm. They don't go to school and cycle at the same time; they make their choice

and the rest of the day in bed."

LeMond makes it clear that he golfs to relax not because he is not dedicated. "You can't have won the Tour de France, the Super Prestige award, and the world championship without training hard. Those victories didn't happen by accident I worked for them."

"I've lived my life the way I wanted to and I've been criticized for it, but I'm happy, and that's what's most important to me. It's golf in Belgium during the season. I'm doing it because I know it's not going to affect my cycling. What it boils down to is that my priorities are a little different from, say, Sean Kelly's".

LeMond chose the right man as contrast. In a now-classic study, first told in the book *Kelly* by the Irish journalist David Walsh, after a race in the Netherlands Kelly's wife, Linda, was sitting on the hood of the family car, waiting for her husband. When she got down, she left a mark where her hand had rested, and Kelly wiped it away without a word. Mildly annoyed, Linda complained that her husband's priorities were first his then his bike, and finally his wife.

As Walsh wrote, "Kelly heard the accusation, turned and with a look of deadly seriousness told his wife that she had gotten the order wrong: 'The bike comes first.'"

"That's the kind of mentality I have to fight in Europe that bike racing is the top priority," LeMond said. "When I was shot there was a big scandal about my going hunting. Instead of people asking, 'Is he going to live?' they said, 'Kelly should never have been out hunting.' Those people are so callous. If I'd been racing the Tour of Italy and had a disabling accident, that would have been okay; I would have been hurt in what the writer considered the line of duty."

LeMond is also troubled by his reputation as a businessman in a cyclist's shorts and jersey, but bristles at the critics: "I came to Europe to win the Tour de France, but I also knew that I was a professional, and in order to live and survive, I had to act like one. If I talk to a team about a contract, I've got to be prepared, because those guys on the other side of the desk are businessmen."

*This is an extract from Greg LeMond: The Incredible Comeback, by Samuel Abo, published by Stanley Paul (£12.99).*



A major part of the European misunderstanding of him, LeMond feels, is that people do not understand how difficult it is to be riding far from his own country, and how he needs to live occasionally like any American of his age. "I get tired of talking to the same journalists and having them write the same stories with the same criticism over and over again. Like about golf".

Before he was shot, LeMond was an avid golfer, usually scoring in the low 80s. By playing the game, however, he defied conventional wisdom that a rider should stay off his feet when not training or racing. During a day off in the Coors Classic in Colorado in 1986, when American television showed LeMond out golfing, his French team-mates were scandalized. After their usual training ride, most of them had spent the rest of the day in bed.

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GB without the I take on an American Curtis Cup team with the snap of a turtle

# Britain one up in propaganda game

From PATRICIA DAVIES IN SOMERSET HILLS, NEW JERSEY

IT IS easy to tell that, in New Jersey at least, the Americans are taking the Curtis Cup seriously. It is noticeable not just because it is on home territory, at Somerset Hills, about 40 miles from New York and not far from Golf House, the home of the United States Golf Association. It is not just because several thousand tickets have been sold for an event that usually attracts only a few hundred on this side of the Atlantic. It is not even because the television cameras are being set up, with microphones nestling beside the tee markers.

It is because of the bumper stickers. That is how you know they are serious, really serious about this, the 26th match between the women amateurs of the United States and Great Britain and Ireland. "Bring back the Curtis Cup" is what the stickers say and, when you have made it to a bumper, you have really made it. As Judy Bell, captain of the last two, losing, US sides, would put it: "You have got our attention."

Bell, a member of the USGA executive committee, has been giving Leslie Shannon, the US captain for the match tomorrow and Sunday, the benefit of her advice and commented, in her usual irrepressible manner: "We've got three secret weapons this time: You've no Irish luck on your side. Diana Bailey has retired. I've retired."

Certainly, for the first time since 1968, no one from Ireland is in the GB and I team, but Nell Bruen, the president of the Ladies' Golf

Union, is from Cork and should regard it as her bounden duty to look after the leprechaun factor. Bailey, who led the winning teams at Prairie Dunes four years ago and at Royal St George's two years ago, is also here, as a spectator, but Jill Thornhill, her successor, is a competitor right down to the spikes on her golf shoes and is well suited to the formidable challenge of keeping the winning run going.

Thornhill played in the last two victories and does not like losing. She was not even sure what she would do if she found herself about to win yesterday's captains' challenge, when she and Shannon were due to play each other over nine holes. "Diane lost to Judy each time and we won the cup," Thornhill recalled, "but I don't know what I'll do, I'm so competitive."

The betting was that she would, as usual, play to win. She halved one match and won the other against Shannon when they met in earnest and losing now, even in a sideshow, would not set the team the best example. "They know what they're here for,"

Thornhill said, as she supervised practice in the hot, humid conditions, weighing her players before and after play, to make sure they were coping with the heat and following the instructions to take plenty of fluids. It was a practice initiated by Bailey in the 100° temperatures of Prairie Dunes and hats and wet towels were also in evidence.

Monday's practice was disrupted by a violent thunderstorm and, on Wednesday

The captain who does not like losing: Thornhill is a competitor right down to the spikes on her golf shoes

afternoon, a men's competition took over the first tee, slightly disconcerting Thornhill, who had wanted her side to study the 3rd and 7th, which she regarded as the key holes on the front nine.

The second nine is a different golf course, really. There are several doglegs and every drive has to be in the right position. We've concentrated our attention on it. This is a very tough golf course and the more you play it, the more you respect it."

Those comments would add a bit of extra bristle to the magnificent, Poirot-like waxed moustaches of Albert Warren Tiltinghast, who built the course in 1916-17 and was also responsible for places like Baltusrol and Winged Foot, both US Open courses. A flamboyant character, with a near line in soft-shoe shuffles among his accomplishments, Tiltinghast wrote: "A round of golf should present 18 inspirations, not necessarily thrills

on the left elbow that has troubled her for most of the season. It swelled up during the flight over.

Goetze, who played all four

rounds in the recent US

Women's Open, and was

described by Shannon, her

captain, as "the most mature

17-year-old in the

team", is to be subject to

attacks of hysteria on every

teeing ground.

A visitor could, however, be

subject to attack from the

snapping turtle which patrolled the lake guarding the green at the 12th, a delightfully picturesque par three, and endangered the fingers of anyone foolhardy enough to grope for balls in the water. If

nothing else, the turtle served

to remind us that the

course's English look was only

skin deep. Green and pleasant

land, yes, England, no.

So far, there have been no

reports of players losing bits to the turtle. The only minor

casualties seem to be Helen

Dobson, the youngest player

on the visiting team, and

Vicki Goetze, the US women's

amateur champion. Leading

the US team, she is competing in

the Curtis Cup, Eighth Curtis Cup.

Goetze and Brandie Burton,

the 18-year-old from California, whose driving took her to

within 10 yards of Laura

Davies when they were paired

at the Women's Open, are two

of the reasons the United

States has such high hopes

of winning the cup back at last.

Burton, beaten by Goetze in

the first of many pewter

plaques, has given no indica-

tion yet that, at the age of 20, he

has any intention of moving

aside before the 1991 World

Cup.

Leonard appreciates the prob-

lem. "I didn't expect things to

happen so fast, not in the space

of a season, but I was hoping for

an easy, ten- or 15-minute he

smash," he said. "I got stronger,

and when Richard

Andrews, the first choice loose-

head at Saracens, got married

and went on honeymoon, I

had to find a replacement.

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Hobday and Waites benefit from being in the slipstream of a past master displaying superb form on the Ailsa course

# Palmer proves inspirational partner

By MITCHELL PLATTS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ARNOLD Palmer proved an inspiration at Turnberry yesterday when he earned a share of the first round lead in the Volvo Seniors British Open with a superb 66, four under par, on the Ailsa course.

Alongside him in the hot sunshine, Brian Waites also had a 66 and Simon Hobday a 67. The charismatic Palmer, of course, played the leading role, but his two partners refused to be cast in mere supporting roles.

Palmer is 60 and Waites and Hobday have only recently turned 50, but much more than ten years separates them. Palmer could make another million or two dollars tomorrow simply by putting his signature to another contract. Waites and Hobday are looking to make their first and

might well do so on the US PGA Seniors Tour for which they must first qualify.

Palmer was in that hitch-up-the-pants-and-give-it-a-rip mood when he teed-off. He sent an eight-iron to 18 inches at the second and a wedge to two feet at the third. What worried him was his putting and three stabs from 20 feet at the fifth and a missed putt of ten feet for a par at the next suggested that the American legend was a condemned man on the greens.

Palmer, however, erased self-doubts with a succession of simple putts and four more birdies. "I should be thankful for that," he said.

Most certainly the spectators were thankful and Hobday was one of them. "I had never played with Arnold and I was a little overawed at his putting was giving him a bigger headache than any potent mixture at the bar could cause. Happiness for Hobday is an ugly putter of the long-handled variety. It is a Ping with two shafts and a life-saver according to its owner. Hobday had fallen victim to the yips and he was having to set car alarms to exist.

He was talking with a pint of Turnberry Hotel's best in his hands. Earlier he looked even happier with a putter in his hands. Yet a few months ago his putting was giving him a bigger headache than any potent mixture at the bar could cause. Happiness for Hobday is an ugly putter of the long-handled variety. It is a Ping with two shafts and a life-saver according to its owner. Hobday had fallen victim to the yips and he was having to set car alarms to exist.

"It's given me another chance. I could make a million out there on the US Tour; it's certainly better than roulette," he said. Hobday holed putts of 10 feet and 40 feet, the type Palmer would hole when he was charging, for two of four birdies in the last eight holes and Waites, home in 32, with three of his five birdies, was more than content. Dean Beman had four of his six birdies in an inward half of 31 for a 67, with Bob Charles (68), the defending champion, and Gary Player (69) giving the leader board a nostalgic look.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (British and Irish unless stated): 66: A Palmer (US), B Waites, 67: S Hobday (US), 8 T. Beman, 88: C Calcavecchia (US), 90: G. Player (SA), 91: D. Doak (US), 92: G. Player (SA), 93: A. Gammie (US), 94: D. Doak (US), 95: C. Calcavecchia (US), 97: T. Gammie, 98: G. Moody, 99: P. Person (US), 101: C. Montgomerie (US), 102: M. Fazio (US), 103: D. Milledge (Can), 104: P. Watson (US), 105: D. Fazio (Can), 106: J. Sorenson, 107: J. Huston (US), 108: S. Richardson (US), 109: V. Ferrante (AUS), 110: M. Martin (US), 111: S. Johnson (US), 112: C. O'Connor (US), 113: M. O'Connell (US), 114: D. Gulliford, 115: M. Shantz, 116: J. Davis (US), 117: B. Smith (US), 118: P. Stoen (US), 119: R. Fazio (US), 120: D. Sorenson (US), 121: C. M. Mohr, 122: S. Murray, 123: W. Hester, 124: J. Wilkins, 125: R. Fazio, 126: H. Boyle, 127: D. Simon, 128: P. Murphy (US), 129: A. Stenmark, 130: C. Green, 131: S. Snell, 132: J. Flanagan.

\* denotes amateur.

## Calcavecchia still among the toilers

From A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
IN ZANDVOORT, THE NETHERLANDS

MARK Calcavecchia put himself in danger of another embarrassment when he bogeyed the last four holes of his first round in the KLM Dutch Open yesterday. Calcavecchia, who arrived in Europe ten days ago as Open champion, surrendered his title to Nick Faldo without getting beyond the second round at St Andrews.

Yesterday, on the back of far lesser form, but with just as many pitfalls for the unwary as the famous Old Course, he could do no better than 75, which left him six strokes behind the seven players sharing the leadership.

The normally loquacious Calcavecchia was for once speechless as his putter first failed to budge the ball from his wayward driving, then went sick on its own account in the closing stages.

A seven at the 12th, his third hole, consigned him to a uphill task and although he had two birdies and nine pars in the next 11 holes, his finish of 5-6-5 left him in danger of an early departure.

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## SPORT

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- RACING 35
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# Gooch leads the onslaught

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (India won toss): England have scored 359 for two wickets against India

GRAHAM Gooch spent the entire opening day of this Cornhill series demonstrating to his Indian counterpart the error of his ways. By the close of play, Mohammad Azharuddin can have been in no further doubt that he was wrong, calamitously wrong, to put England in to bat as Gooch rushed to his first double century in Test cricket.

Given the make-up of their team, and the blissful weather, India's best route to victory simply had to be by dictating the game with the bat. Azharuddin, for reason best known to himself, surrendered first use of an easy-paced pitch and Gooch, as surprised as he was grateful, sentenced him to an indefinite period of repentence.

If there was an attacking theory behind the decision, Azharuddin was clutching at elusive straws. If his motivation was negative, protecting his batsmen from the real or imagined perils of a first morning at Lord's, he was misguided.

In 1986, Kapil Dev inserted England and won by five wickets, but yesterday's entirely different conditions gave the batting side an early chance to impose authority on this series.

Gooch, continuing the most prolific period of his career despite the discomfort of an ear infection, ensured that the gift was not spurned.

Surviving the first session with occasional good fortune, principally when badly missed by the wicketkeeper, More, on 36, Gooch was thereafter in complete and majestic control. A century, his fourth in consecutive first-class matches and his thirteenth of the season in all cricket, came with a sense of inevitability. It was, however, no more than a basis for negotiation as he proceeded to lift his average for the season above 100.

The longer the day went on, the more one-sided it became. India's bowling was toothless and their fielding sometimes wretched. Gooch put on 127 with David Gower, the subject of a highly dubious umpiring decision, and another 218 with Alan Lamb, the subject of further generosity from the hapless Azharuddin, who spared him the early ordeal against spin which so plainly inhibits him.

The unbroken third-wicket stand is a record for England against India, and to add to the orgy of statistics, Gooch and Lamb became the first players ever to score four Test centuries at Lord's.

It was as disastrous an opening day as the most



In control: Gooch, the England captain, beats the dive of Manjrekar at forward short leg on his way to an unbeaten 194 at Lord's yesterday

## Why India should have heeded wisdom of W.G.

By JOHN WOODCOCK

PESSIMISTIC Indian can have sunlight for his seventeenth Test appearance at Lord's. No one has played on the ground more times and, now, no one has scored more runs here. When he reached 21, Gower passed the previous record aggregate at Lord's, held by Boycott.

There was one sumptuous cover drive amid some dedicated defence. Gower had something substantial in mind but, when he had made 40, he thrust forward to Hirwan and the ball flew to silly point, hardly deviated off the pad.

Umpire Plews's raised finger penetrated even the iceberg exterior of Gower. His head went back, a disbelieving message was muttered to the heavens and, as he departed, he tapped the ball back into the stumps.

Gooch reached his hundred with a four through mid-on against Sharma. He repeated the shot next ball and, though pleased with it, was now in that subconscious mode, formidable to watch, hurrying purposefully around the crease between balls as if anxious for the next offering.

After tea he saw Hirwan out of the attack with a series of emphatic sweeps, and Shastri, who had grazed in the outfield for too long, was brought back. It was now too late to disorientate Lamb, who was on the way to a century scored off only 122 balls. Only by comparison with Gooch did he suffer and both may have a good deal more to offer today.

The England batsman, Alec Stewart, is likely to return for Surrey in the county championship match with Gloucestershire at Cheltenham tomorrow. He has been sidelined for the past ten days with a back strain and will have a fitness test today. The team coach, Geoff Arnold, said: "It looks almost certain he will play."

"I don't know why they were put in — you had better ask the captain about that," Bedi said last night. "I think our batsmen would have wanted to bat first. Personally, I would have wanted to bowl

on that wicket in the fourth innings."

Azharuddin, however, pointed out that India had dismissed Atherton early on and that Gooch had been caught when he was 36.

"We had a very good morning session. We should have had Gooch out cheaply and if that wicket had gone down it could have turned into a very good start," he said.

"The ball was moving around, but we did not bowl well after that first session. But it is a good pitch, and it is up to us to bat well when we face their big total."

Moorehouse's record

was in the stream on the

Leander class

### SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

ENGLAND		First Innings		Balls	
"G	A Gooch not out	194	2	27	361
M A Atherton b Kapil Dev	Bowled between bat and pad	8	1	22	20
D Gower c Manjrekar b Hirwan	40				
Pushed leg break to silly point					
A J Lamb not out	104	16	181	123	
Extras (b 1, D 3, w 1, nb 2)	13				
Total (2 wkt, 50 overs)	389				
R A Smith, J E Morris, R C Russell, C C Lewis, E E Hemmings, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm to bat.					
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-141, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-17, 8-17, 9-17, 10-17, 11-17, 12-17, 13-17, 14-17, 15-17, 16-17, 17-17, 18-17, 19-17, 20-17, 21-17, 22-17, 23-17, 24-17, 25-17, 26-17, 27-17, 28-17, 29-17, 30-17, 31-17, 32-17, 33-17, 34-17, 35-17, 36-17, 37-17, 38-17, 39-17, 40-17, 41-17, 42-17, 43-17, 44-17, 45-17, 46-17, 47-17, 48-17, 49-17, 50-17-0.					

INDIA

N S Sidhu, R J Shastri, S V Manjrekar, D B Venkateswaran, M Azharuddin, S R Tendulkar, Y K S More, Kapil Dev, M Prabhakar, S K Sharma, N D Hirwan.

Umpires D B Bird and N T Potts.

TV TIMES: BBC 2, 9.30-10.10, 10.50-12.05, 13.35-18.30 (with racing from Ascot), 23.55-00.00. BSkyB 20.00-22.00.

WEATHER: Fairly dry and bright with some sunshine. Some showers later. Outlook for the weekend: rather cloudy with scattered showers at first, becoming drier and brighter on Sunday.

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### Coach dismissed after letter to Gorbachev

SYDNEY (Reuters) — A letter to President Mikhail Gorbachev from an incensed Australian rugby union supporter has led to the dismissal of the Soviet Union's leading rugby coach and two players.

Craig Moran said yesterday that he had sent a letter addressed to "Mr M. Gorbachev, The Kremlin, Moscow" two days after the Australian captain, Nick Farr-Jones, had his jaw broken by a punch from an unidentified Soviet player in Sydney on March 28.

In the letter, which was accompanied by press clippings deplored the incident. Moran expressed his "disgust" at the touring Soviet team's behaviour. "If this recent display is an indication of how you would like to see the game played, it reflects poorly on your country," Moran, a recruitment agent in the computer industry, wrote.

Nothing happened for four months but earlier this week Moran said he received a

letter from Vladimir Ilyushin, president of the Soviet Rugby Union Federation. "We can only agree with you that the rugby is the game of gentlemen and there is no place for roughness on a pitch," the letter said.

"We inform you that, after returning from Australia, Victor Masyura is dismissed from his job as the USSR national team main coach while players Igor Khokhlov and Aleksandr Bychikov are withdrawn for the USSR national team. We hope that Nic [sic] Farr-Jones has recovered and plays the rugby as good as before that sad incident."

Farr-Jones, who is touring

New Zealand with Australia,

said: "I find it quite bizarre

that Mr Gorbachev should get involved in something like this and that the coach, who had nothing to do with it, should be implicated."

England's young prop, pages

### Choice of course leads to problems

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

DEANE Beman, the US PGA Tour commissioner, believes that the Masters and the United States Golf Association (USGA) face "huge problems" because of the controversy surrounding the composition of a club's membership. The USGA is facing a huge problem and the Masters is going to have a huge problem.

The United States Professional Golfers' Association, organisers of next month's championship, has already stated its intention to review the policy of selecting venues

primarily to take into account the composition of a club's membership.

The controversy has attracted nationwide interest, and the US government is understood to be monitoring the situation in company with the Augusta club, where the Masters is played.

Shoal Creek was founded in 1977, staged the US PGA championship in 1984 and, like Augusta, has no black

members.

Beman, speaking after scor

ing a 67 in the first round of

the Volvo Seniors British

### Bad timing by new sponsor of League Cup

By STEVE ACTESON

NATIONAL Power's pro

posed four-year £4 million

sponsorship of the Football

League Cup was the source of

further embarrassment yes

terday, when the nationalised

company announced losses of

£605 million and 5,000

redundancies.

The announcement raised

doubts as to whether the com

pany could be privatised

in its present form, and, more

immediately, whether the

time was right for the football

sponsorship, even though £4

million would represent only

modest expenditure by Na

tional Power. Its timing was

hardly diplomatic.

A spokesman for National

Power admitted yesterday that

sponsorship of the League

Cup, the third most importa

nt domestic football competition

(which was previously spon

sored by the Milk Marketing

Board and Littlewoods), had

not yet been approved by the

board. The first round is only

a month away.

The latest developments

came as an unwelcome sur

prise to League officials, who

had believed that the spon

sorship had been approved by

the National Power board last

week. They had hoped to

make an official sponsorship

announcement on Tuesday or

Wednesday, combining it with

the draw for the first round.

The League belatedly an

nounced the first-round draw

yesterday but delayed once

again the announcement of a

new sponsor.

National Power, which paid

£2 million to be ITV's official

sponsor during the World

Cup, had been expected to

provide sponsorship worth £1

million a year, linked to the

retail price index.